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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Conservation Plant Release and Technology Field Day**

By Melissa Blair, Zone 3 Public Affairs Specialist

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) E. “Kika” de la Garza Plant Materials Center (PMC) and South Texas Natives (STN) in Kingsville will host a free field day on Thurs. Oct. 25 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The educational field day will be held on the 91-acre facility at 3409 N. FM 1355, north of the Texas A&M Kingsville campus. Landowners, land managers and the public will have the opportunity to learn about the latest conservation plant releases, plant technology and conservation use of different seed mixes for South Texas.

The E. “Kika” de la Garza PMC provides cost-effective vegetative solutions for soil and water conservation problems for the 27-million acres that make up South Texas. They identify plants and develop techniques for successful conservation use of these plants. They also assist in the commercial development of these plants and promote their use in natural resource conservation and other environmental programs. Since the PMC opened in 1981, they have released with their partner more than 23 varieties of native plants.

The PMC also provides technical assistance to restore Gulf Coast prairie and the associated salt marshes, enhance waterbird habitats, re-vegetate areas disturbed by mining and oil field exploration, and improve range and pasture lands.

The field day will include presentations on “How to Develop a Native Seed Mix,” “Providing Pollinator Habitat” and “What is Soil Health?” There also will be an off-site tour of a native range planting and an on-center tour that will discuss endangered species restoration, developing seed releases for South Texas and growing cover crops and biofuels.

There is no charge to attend and lunch will be provided. Those who wish to attend need to pre-register by Oct. 10 by contacting Annette Peterson at 361-593-4037 or by e-mail at [Annette.peterson@tamuk.edu](mailto:Annette.peterson@tamuk.edu) with their name, address, phone number, affiliation and number of people attending.

Participants can sign in at the PMC between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. and the program will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 4 p.m.

Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations and/or alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, Large print, audiotape, etc.) associated with this meeting should contact John Lloyd-Reilley at 361-595-1313 at least two weeks prior to the meeting with his/her specific request.

For a complete agenda, visit the NRCS Texas Web site at [www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov) or contact the plant materials center at 361-595-1313.

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