**-center Evaluations** - Plantings used by PMCs to evaluate releases or technology off the center; data is collected and analyzed statistically; was previously named “field evaluation planting.”

**On-center Evaluations** - Plantings done on the PMC to evaluate new technology or new plant selections; data is collected and analyzed statistically.

**Open Pollination** - Natural, as opposed to controlled, pollination. Open pollinated seed contrasts with hybrid seed.

**Perennial** - A plant that lives more than 2 years.

**Performance Trial** –A planting designed to test a potential plant release for reliability in a particular conservation application. May require multiple plantings and/or off-center sites. Standards for comparison are to be included if available.

**Phenology** - A branch of science dealing with the relationship between climate and periodic biological phenomena. Also dates or sequence of occurrence of different growth stages of plants.

**Phenotype** - (1) The external appearance or discernible characteristics of an organism, resulting from interaction between an organism's genetic makeup (genotype) and the environment. A group of individual plants may appear alike (phenotypically) but not have the same genotype, or they may vary in appearance and have the same genotype. (2) Observable characteristics.

**Photosynthesis** - The metabolic pathway by which plants produce food. See also “C-3 plants”, “C-4 plants”, and “CAM plants”.

**Pioneer Species** - The first species or community to colonize or recolonize a barren or disturbed area in primary or secondary succession.

**Plan of Operations (PO)** - see 'Business Plan'

**Plant Association** - A kind of climax plant community consisting of stands with essentially the same dominant species in corresponding layers.

**Plant Community Type** - Each of the existing plant communities that can occupy an ecological site. Several plant community types will typically be found on an ecological site, including the historic climax plant community for that site.

**Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA)** - Approved December 23, 1970, the PVPA offers legal protection to developers of new releases or varieties of plants that reproduce sexually, that is, through seed. Developers of plants that reproduce asexually have received protection from the U.S. Patent Office since 1930. The law states that protection will be extended to a “novel variety" if it has these three qualifications: Distinctness - The variety must differ from all known prior varieties by one or more identifiable morphological, physiological, or other characteristic; Uniformity - If any variations exist in the variety, they must be describable, predictable, and commercially acceptable; and Stability - When sexually reproduced, the variety must remain unchanged in its essential and distinctive characteristics to a degree expected of similarly developed varieties.

**Polycross** - Open-pollination of a group of genotypes (generally selected) in isolation from other compatible genotypes in such a way that each of the original selections has an equal opportunity at pollinating, or being pollinated by, any of the others.

**Population** - (1) The aggregate of organisms which inhabit a particular area or region; (2) a (specified) portion of such an aggregate, usually a group of organisms of the same kind occupying an area small enough to allow interbreeding.

**Population Genetics** - A branch of genetics dealing with the frequency and distribution of genes, mutants, genotypes, etc. among populations of organisms. Population genetics is now based upon an increasing input of laboratory and field observations under an array of environments; much of this work involves the documentation and interpretation of genetic variability in natural populations.

**Post-Emergence** - After the emergence of a specified weed or crop.

**Potential Natural Community** - The biotic community that would become established on an ecological site if all successional sequences were completed without interferences by man under the present environmental conditions. Natural disturbances are inherent in its development.

**Pre-Emergence** - Before the emergence of a specified weed or crop.

**Pre-Planting** - Any time before the crop is planted.

**Pristine** - A state of ecological stability or condition existing in the absence of direct disturbances by modern man. See also “relict”.

**Project** - A national PM activity that is broad in nature and serves as an umbrella for PMC studies. Refer to Part 540.51 of the NPMM for more information on PM projects.

**Project Statement** - A document that outlines the details of a National PM Project. Refer to Part 540.51 of the NPMM for more information on PM project statements.

**Pure Line** - Succession of generations of organisms homozygous for all genes.

**Pure Live Seed (PLS)** - The product of the percentage of germination plus the hard seed and the percentage of pure seed divided by 100.

**Purity** - (1) The name or names of the kind, type, or varieties and the percentage or percentages thereof. (2) The percentage of other agricultural seed or crop seed; the percentage of inert matters. (3) The percentage of weed seed, including noxious weed seed, and the names of the noxious weed seed and the rate of occurrence of each.

**Race** - A term sometimes used to denote ecotypes.

**Range Condition** - A generic term relating to present status of a unit of range in terms of specific values or potentials. Specific values or potentials must be stated. Some agencies define range condition as follows: the present state of vegetation of a range site in relation to the climax (natural potential) plant community for that site. It is an expression of the relative degree to which the kinds, proportions, and amounts of plants in a plant community resemble that of the climax plant community for the site.

**Range Condition Class**