

**Recent Activities at the Northeast Regional Plant
Introduction Station (NERPIS)**

**USDA/ARS
New York State Agricultural Experiment Station
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Geneva, New York 14456-0422**

As one of four regional plant introduction stations in the National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS), NERPIS is charged with the acquisition, maintenance, evaluation, enhancement, and distribution of a number of crops, including Lotus. Currently NERPIS maintains 554 Lotus accessions of approximately 55 species and subspecies. Accessions are being added regularly as additional germplasm is donated or collected. The upcoming collection trip of Dr. Paul Beuselinck and Walter Graves to Morocco, which is being funded by NPGS, should greatly enhance the representation of Lotus from this region in our collection.

NERPIS has recently come under new leadership with Dr. Stephen Kresovich as Coordinator of the unit and Dr. James McFerson as the unit Geneticist/Curator. The position of Assistant Curator of Forages is being filled by Michael Ferracane, a graduate research assistant from Cornell University who is also conducting controlled pollination research at NERPIS.

Thanks to a new infusion of funding the facilities at NERPIS will be expanding rapidly over the next few years. Construction is underway for a 1,115 sq. m field laboratory and seed processing building, which will be located on our new irrigated 14 ha farm where most seed increases will be made in the future. We are presently planning additional greenhouse facilities and growth chambers to handle controlled environment pollination and vernalization. Expanded office space and personnel increases are also anticipated.

Work is underway preparing our data base for incorporation into the computerized Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN). It is expected that these efforts will increase the quality, accessibility, and usefulness of our collections to the user community. We encourage Lotus researchers to make use of our resources and to contact NERPIS if we can be of any assistance.