

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SOIL CONSERVATION
SERVICE
AND
NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES CORNELL
UNIVERSITY
AND
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRY**

NOTICE OF RELEASE FOR AROOSTOOK RYE

The United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, NYS College of Agriculture and Life Science, Cornell University, and Maine Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry, announce the release of 'Aroostook' rye (*Secale cereale* L.), 1981. It was developed by the Soil Conservation Service Plant Materials Center, Big Flats, New York, with concurrent testing by the University of Maine Agriculture Experiment Station, Presque Isle, Maine.

Collection Site Information: 'Aroostook' rye is from seed originally purchased through Stanford Seed Co., Buffalo, New York, which was grown in New York State from certified 'Balbo' rye. Seed was designated as NY-6030 when received at Big Flats Plant Materials Center in 1975, and later assigned PI-464583.

Description: 'Aroostook' rye is fairly tall growing, averaging 67 centimeters. It has narrow, dark green leaves and is slightly curved to incline heads at maturity. The medium-sized seed is about 2.5 mm wide by 7.5 mm long. Juvenile plant growth is prostrate providing good ground cover when it is planted early in the fall.

Method of Breeding and Selection: 'Aroostook' rye was selected for use as a cover crop plant for northern Maine, following late harvested potatoes. There were 800 rye cultivars and numbered accession tested. 'Aroostook' produced significantly more growth when seeded late in the fall, more spring growth and exhibited more winter hardiness than others tested, including Breeder seed of Balbo at both Big Flats, New York and Presque Isle, Maine.

Conservation Use: The principal use of 'Aroostook' rye is as a cover crop for later harvested crops. At Presque Isle, Maine, it produced sufficient fall growth to provide some soil protection over winter when 260 to 360 growing degree days (base 40° F) remain after seeding. It should be useful following late harvested crops in other geographic areas.

Availability of Plant Materials: Breeder seed will be maintained by the USDA NRCS Big Flats Plant Materials Center, New York. Foundation seed is also available at the same location.

Re-formatted and Prepared by:

Shawna Clark
Natural Resources Specialist
USDA NRCS Big Flats Plant Materials Center
3266 State Route 352
Corning, New York 14830

Original Release Notice and Signatures are available upon request