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U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service
Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station

and

Utah State Division of Wildlife Resources

and

U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service

and

University of Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station

and

Utah State University Agricultural Experiment Station

and

University of Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF 'EPHRAIM' CRESTED WHEATGRASS

The United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Soil Conservation Service, Utah State Division of Wildlife Resources and the Agricultural Experiment Stations of Utah State, Arizona, and Idaho Universities announce the release and naming of Ephraim crested wheatgrass (Agropyron cristatum L., Gaertn.) Ephraim was introduced from Ankara, Turkey. The first planting in Utah was made in 1946 at Majors Flat near Ephraim, Utah. From Majors Flat, seed was planted on the John K. Olsen farm at Ephraim. Continued testing was conducted on the Gilbert Jorgensen farm at Ephraim. Selection was made from this planting for all subsequent plantings to date. Evaluation plantings have been made in northern Arizona, Utah, Idaho and Montana.

Ephraim is rhizomatous and has shown good characteristics primarily for stabilization of disturbed sites, critical area stabilization and erosion control. It is equal to standard crested wheatgrass for range forage.

Ephraim will grow and produce adequate forage with 8 inches annual precipitation. It does best between 10 and 14 inches. The higher the precipitation, the sooner the rhizomatous characteristics develop. It is adapted to a wide range of soils, including disturbed areas and mine spoils. Salt and alkali tolerance is moderately high. It is not well adapted to silty soils having a very low water intake rate or extremely stony sites. When in pure stands, it is susceptible to the black grass bug, Labops hesperus.

Ephraim is a good seed producer when standard cultural practices are followed. Seed matures fairly evenly in early August and can be harvested with a field combine. On rangeland, stands are well maintained by seed and the strong rhizomatous characteristic. Recommended seeding rate for seed production is 3 pounds per acre. When drilling on rangeland, 7 pounds per acre is recommended.

Breeder plants will be maintained by the Aberdeen Plant Materials Center, Aberdeen, Idaho, which will have responsibility for production of foundation seed. Recognized classes of seed are breeder, foundation, registered and certified. Foundation seed is available through local soil conservation districts and agricultural experiment stations. Certified seed should be available in the fall of 1984.

SIGNATURES:

Roger R. Bay Feb 7, 1983

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Feb 4, 1983

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