NOTICE OF RELEASE OF 'MAGENTA' HYBRID CRABAPPLE FOR CONSERVATION PLANTINGS

By

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY DIVISION
Washington, D.C.

And

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Lansing, Michigan

The United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources announce the release of 'Magenta' hybrid crabapple, *Malus* hybrid.

'Magenta' crabapple is a small compact tree, 20 to 30 feet in height, with dense, ascending reddish brown branches and a symmetrical, pyramidal or rounded crown. Leaves are red in the spring, retaining their reddish hue for much of the year. Flowers are pink and the fruit is a small dark-red pome, approximately 1/2 inch in diameter, ripening in October.

'Magenta' is a multi-purpose plant, intended for use as a shrub or small tree in single-row windbreaks, rural roadside beautification, wildlife food and cover and screen or spot plantings in recreational developments. The fruit is attractive to songbirds and upland game birds.

'Magenta' is a selection from Mich-860 crabapple which was grown from open-pollinated seed collected from 'Radiant' crabapple, a vegetatively propagated cultivar. These all belong to the 'Roseybloom' race of crabapples. 'Roseybloom' is a distinct race of hybrid crabapples derived from Redvein crabapple (*Malus pumila* var. *niedzwetzkyana*) X Siberian crabapple (*M. baccata*). 'Magenta' was evaluated under accession numbers Mich-1704 and 9005032. The PI number assigned to 'Magenta' is 514275.

'Magenta' was selected for its upright growth, large pink flowers, red leaves and small fruit. 'Magenta' has been evaluated at the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center and in extensive field plantings throughout the Great Lakes region. Performance has been good to excellent and indicates 'Magenta' should be adapted throughout the midwestern and northeastern United States in plant hardiness zones 4, 5 and 6. 'Magenta' grows well on most soil types; however, the best performance has been recorded on sandy loam soils.

'Magenta' is released as an open-pollinated seed propagated cultivar. Propagation by commercial nurseries will be from open-pollinated seed. About 20% of the seedlings won't breed true. These are easily identified by their green leaves and should be rogued from the propagation beds. A seed orchard is established at the USDA Soil Conservation Service Rose Lake Plant Materials Center, East Lansing, Michigan. This seed orchard will be maintained as 'breeders' for foundation seed production for distribution to public and commercial nurserymen.

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Homer R Hilner — 8-16-90

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David F. Hales, Director — Date
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