UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION, ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES

WASHINGTON, D.C.

and the

MISSOURI AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF 'RUMSEY' INDIANGRASS

The United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service and the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station announce the naming and release of 'Rumsey' indiangrass (Sorghastrum nutans (L.) Nash). It was developed by the Soil Conservation Service and released in cooperation with the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station.

'Rumsey' indiangrass was collected from a native stand in Jefferson County, Illinois, evaluated, selected, and increased at the Elsberry Plant Materials Center, Elsberry, Missouri, as MI-5734. In 1978, it was assigned the number PI315747. It has been evaluated at Elsberry PMC in comparison with 'Oto,' 'Osage,' 'Holt,' 'Cheyenne,' and 'Nebraska 54' cultivars as well as many new field collections.

In extensive evaluations at Elsberry, 'Rumsey' has demonstrated advantages over released cultivars in (1) increased seedling growth rate, (2) superior forage production, and (3) increased resistance to lodging. The flowering date of 'Rumsey' is 10-12 days later than most evaluated cultivars and 40 days later than 'Holt.' This later maturity will maintain forage quality later into the growing season.

Adaptation of 'Rumsey' appears excellent in field plantings throughout Missouri, southern Iowa and southern Illinois. The area of adaptation has not been exceeded.

The use of 'Rumsey' indiangrass is for livestock forage in improved forage systems seeded in pure stands or in mixtures. It is well suited for environmental plantings as well.

Four classes of seed (Breeders, Foundation, Registered, and Certified) of 'Rumsey' are recognized. Breeders seed and Foundation seed will be produced by the Soil Conservation Service, Elsberry Plant Materials Center, Elsberry, Missouri, under the supervision of the Missouri Seed Improvement Association.

Registered seed may be produced from the first three seed crops as first generation progeny from Foundation seed.

Certified seed may be produced from the first through the eighth crop as first generation progeny from Foundation seed or the first through the fifth crop as second generation progeny from Registered seed.

Director, Ecological Sciences and
Technology Division
Soil Conservation Service
Washington, D.C.

2/24/83
Date

State Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service
Columbia, Missouri

2-14-83
Date

Director
Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station
Columbia, Missouri

2/8/83
Date