UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
Ecological Sciences and Technology Division

WASHINGTON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER
Pullman, Washington

OREGON AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
Corvallis, Oregon

and

IDAHO AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
Moscow, Idaho

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF COVAR SHEEP FESCUE

The Plant Sciences Division, Soil Conservation Service, of the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Agricultural Experiment Stations of Washington, Oregon and Idaho, announce the release of 'COVAR' sheep fescue (*Festuca ovina L.*). It was developed by John L. Schwendiman, Plant Materials Specialist, Agronomist Alvin G. Law of the Washington Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Plant Materials Center, Pullman, Washington.

Covar is a dwarf, erect-growing, fine-stemmed, blueish-colored, short-leaved sheep fescue. It was developed from PI 109,497, introduced from Konya, Turkey in 1934. Seedlings develop slowly, plants are tenacious, heavy root producing, good seed producers, long-lived, and competitively crowd out many other species. Covar has been under test since 1936. It has been compared with 63 other strains from 15 different countries, including seven commercial strains. Some of the first field plantings made during 1940-50 are still very effective.

As the name suggests, Covar is best used as a low-growing turf or cover grass in areas of 10 to 18 inches of annual rainfall. It is disease-free, volunteers readily from shattered seed, and has been widely tested in the Pacific Northwest. Its principal use will be on roadsides, highway ditchbanks, terraces, and other conservation seedings where a low-growing, long-lived, competitive grass is needed.

PM-17-5
Release &
Certification

Breeder and Foundation seed is being maintained by the Plant Materials Center, Soil Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Pullman, Washington. Foundation seed is available.

William J. Lloyd, Acting
Director, Ecological Sciences and Technology Division

November 2, 1977
Date

J. Robbins/DO
Director, Washington Agricultural Experiment Station

9-20-77
Date

John R Davis
Director, Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station

10/5/77
Date

Raymond J Miller
Director, Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station

9/28/77
Date