Purpose. To provide guidance on addressing introduced cool season grass seed supply issues in 2022.

Expiration Date. December 31, 2022

Background. Smooth bromegrass is a popular introduced cool season grass species used in permanent seeding mixes. Ongoing drought and adverse weather conditions in primary growing regions for cool season grass seed is restricting seed supply and availability of many introduced grass species. Seed supply will vary across dealers.

Explanation. Due to the continued shortage of smooth bromegrass and other cool season species, allowances for introduced species are being adjusted until December 31, 2022. The following allowances for CPS 342 Critical Area Planting, CPS 512 Pasture and Hay Planting, and CPS 327 Conservation Cover are acceptable for seedings completed in calendar year 2022 to accommodate the limitations.

1. Revisions to CPS 342 Critical Area Planting Implementation Requirement Table 2 is shown in Attachment A. Kentucky bluegrass can now be seeded as a pure stand (previously limited to 80 percent). Orchardgrass, red top, and tall fescue have allowable seeding rate increases to 75 percent of the mix (previously limited to 50 percent). Three additional species are allowed this year: intermediate wheatgrass, meadow fescue and meadow brome. Intermediate wheatgrass is limited to 75 percent of the mix and well drained sites. Meadow fescue is limited to 75 percent of the mix. Meadow brome is allowed to be seeded as a pure stand. Include Attachment A with any 342 IRs using this variance.

2. CPS 512 Pasture and Hay Planting will temporarily allow the use of meadow fescue and meadow brome (previously not approved species). See Attachment B for the additional information. Attachment B can be attached to IA Agronomy TN-34. If utilizing the additional species for a 512 planting, document that IA Bulletin 190-22-2 was used to complete the seeding plan in the conservation plan notes or on the seeding plan.

3. CPS 327 Conservation Cover Implementation Requirement has revisions to Table 2 as shown in Attachment C. Two additional species are allowed this year: meadow fescue and meadow brome. Meadow fescue is limited to 25 percent of the mix. Meadow brome is allowed to be seeded as a pure stand if program rules allow. Include Attachment C with any 327 IR using this variance.

Contact. For further information, please contact state grassland specialist, Jeff Matthias, at (515) 323-2257 or email jeff.matthias@usda.gov.

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Attachments:
A: CPS342 Critical Area Planting temporary guidance
B: CPS512 Pasture and Hay Planting temporary guidance
C: CPS 327 Conservation Cover temporary guidance