

Notice of Release of 'Jackson' eastern gamagrass

The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, East Texas Plant Materials Center, Stephen F. Austin State University Department of Agriculture, Deep East Texas Association of Conservation Districts, and Northeast Texas Association of Conservation Districts announce the naming and release of a new variety of eastern gamagrass. 'Jackson', eastern gamagrass, *Tripsacum dactyloides*, was developed at the Natural Resources Conservation Service East Texas Plant Materials Center at Nacogdoches, Texas.

'Jackson' eastern gamagrass was originally collected from a native stand in Jackson County, Texas. It was collected in July 1986 by NRCS employee Jose Valadez of the Edna Field Office.

In May 1987, seed of 'Jackson', along with 85 other collections, was planted in an initial evaluation block. The collections were from approximately sixty counties throughout Texas. From 1988-1990, the collections were evaluated for the following criteria: forage abundance, seed production, plant vigor, and stand persistence. The initial evaluation was completed in September 1990. 'Jackson' was one of three collections chosen for their superior performance. These collections were chosen for advanced evaluation and seed/plant increase.

The advanced evaluation focused on dry matter yield and digestibility data. In addition to the three chosen collections, PI#434493 (Hays County), and 'Pete', a commercial cultivar were included. During the study, 'Jackson' consistently performed well in dry matter yield. 'Jackson' produced more dry matter yield per acre than 'Pete'. 'Jackson' displayed good regrowth after clipping. The cultivar exhibited good resistance to insects and diseases.

'Jackson' is a versatile species which can be used for pasture and hay. Other uses include green chop, silage and animal waste management systems. Without irrigation, 'Jackson' would be adapted to areas receiving 25" or more of rainfall per year. 'Jackson' is

adapted to many soil types, however, deep sandy soils would not be suitable.

To sustain plant vigor and stand health, management is essential. Clipping or grazing height of 7" or greater is necessary to maintain stand vigor and density.

Observation through evaluations and literature review indicate this plant poses no toxic threat to man, domestic livestock, or wildlife.

The classes of Breeder, Foundation, Registered, and Certified seed are to be recognized. The East Texas Plant Materials Center will maintain breeder seed. Foundation seed will be produced at the East Texas Plant Materials Center under the supervision of the Texas Foundation Seed Service and the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Richard S. White 11/30/98
for Diane Gelburd Date
Director, Ecological Science Division USDA/NRCS

Dale Perritt 8-12-98
Dr. Dale Perritt Date
Professor, Chairman of Stephen F. Austin State University
Department of Agriculture

William Justiss 7-23-98
William Justiss Date
President, North East Texas Association of Soil and Water
Conservation Districts

Wayne Baker 7-13-98
Wayne Baker Date
President, Deep East Texas Association of Soil and Water
Conservation Districts