UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES DIVISION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS

ATHENS, GEORGIA

NOTICE OF RELEASE FOR 'AMERICUS' HAIRY VETCH

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
AND
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF 'AMERICUS' HAIRY VETCH

The United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, and the University of Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station announces the release of 'AMERICUS' hairy vetch, (Vicia villosa Roth).

Using legumes in crop rotations to enhance soil fertility, crop production and to reduce soil erosion is among the oldest of agricultural management practices.

Conservation tillage cropping systems have the greatest potential for economically controlling sheet and rill erosion on cropland in the states served by the Americus Georgia Plant Materials Center. There has been a need for well adapted annual cool season legumes that are compatible with conservation tillage systems in each state. Legumes as a cover crop could potentially prevent erosion, fix nitrogen, and reduce moisture losses by evaporation.

In 1983-84 the Soil Conservation Service, Americus Plant Materials Center assembled and evaluated collections of cool season annual legumes for use as cover crops for conservation tillage. The center has used the initial evaluation block located on Orangeburg sandy loam at Americus, Georgia to screen approximately 1,000 cool season annual legume accessions. These legumes have included germplasm from several genera including Lathvrus, Trifolium, Vicia, and Medicago. They were assembled from foreign, as well as naturalized populations. All foreign accessions came through the USDA-ARS Plant Introduction System. The naturalized legumes were collected and processed by Soil Conservation Service personnel in the Southeastern United States. Each accession was evaluated for adaptability, growth, vigor, winter hardiness, stand, reseeding ability, flowering date, seed production, disease resistance, and insect resistance. The Americus hairy vetch was the best late maturing hairy vetch accession that showed potential as a cover crop for conservation tillage systems.

Increase fields of Americus were planted to supply seed €or further testing. Americus Hairy Vetch was selected and direct increase of plant introduction PI-383803. The original source was from Turkey.

James B. Newman — 11-29-93

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Date

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