

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
ELSBERRY, MISSOURI

And

THE IOWA ECOTYPE PROJECT AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA  
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA

NATIVE ROADSIDE VEGETATION CENTER  
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
AMES, IOWA

IOWA CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION  
AMES, IOWA

**NOTICE OF RELEASE OF NORTHERN IOWA GERMPLASM  
PURPLE PRAIRIE CLOVER  
SOURCE IDENTIFIED CLASS OF NATURAL GERMPLASM**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University of Northern Iowa (UNI), the Native Roadside Vegetation Center (NRVC), the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT), and the Iowa Crop Improvement Association (ICIA) announce the release of a source identified ecotype of purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea* Vent.) for Northern Iowa counties.

As a source identified release, this plant will be referred to as Northern Iowa Germplasm Purple Prairie Clover to document its original collections. Northern Iowa Germplasm Purple Prairie Clover is released as a source identified type of certified seed (natural track). It has been assigned the NRCS accession number 9068608.

This alternative release procedure is justified because there are no existing commercial sources of purple prairie clover collected from numerous native sites throughout this specific region. Propagation material of specific ecotypes is needed for roadside plantings and prairie restoration and enhancement. The potential for immediate use is high.

**Collection Site Information:** Collections were taken from native prairie remnants within the three tiers of counties located in northern Iowa.

**Ecotype Description:** Purple prairie clover is a perennial native warm season legume that grows to a height of 1.5 to 2.5 feet. Several stems may grow from a single base. The flowers are pinkish purple on elongated spikes that are 3/16 inch long. The flower head at the end of a wiry stem is cylindrical, with a fringe of rosy petals on a partly bare cone. Purple prairie clover flowers the last of May through September. The leaves are alternate; pinnately compound, 1 inch by 3/4 inch; leaflets very narrow, 3/8 inch by 1/16 inch; usually about three to five leaflets; smooth but with black dots on the lower leaf surface. Leaflets which may be sparingly hairy.

Inflorescence is dense elongate heads on flower stalks from the stem tip and the: upper leaf axis; 1 inch to 1 1/2 inch long; flowering from bottom to top. The fruit is a single-seeded pod, developing within the calyx, 1/16 inch in diameter; fruiting begins in mid-July; fruits remain on the plant into September.

**Environmental Impact Assessment:** Northern Iowa Germplasm Purple Prairie Clover is a collection of naturally occurring germplasm and has been unaltered. Northern Iowa Germplasm Purple Prairie Clover did not meet the assessment of a plant that could become invasive based on guidelines adopted by the NRCS Plant Materials Program.

**Anticipated Conservation Use:** The potential uses of Northern Iowa Germplasm Purple Prairie Clover include roadside and wildlife plantings, prairie creations and restorations, landscaping, and for increasing plant diversity in prairie communities.

**Potential Area of Adaptation:** Purple prairie clover occurs in prairies, rocky open glades, along railroads, and rocky or open woods. It also occurs in sand prairies, and gravel-hill prairies. The range is from Indiana to Saskatchewan and Montana, South to Tennessee, Arkansas, Texas and Mexico; also in Alabama and introduced east to New York.

**Availability of Plant Materials:** G1 material is being produced in limited supply by the Elsberry Plant Materials Center and the University of Northern Iowa, Native Roadside Vegetation Center. For information contact USDA, NRCS, Plant Materials Center, 2803 N. Hwy 79, Elsberry, Missouri 63343 (573 898-2012) or the University of Northern Iowa, Native Roadside Vegetation Center, 113 CEEE, Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0293 (319 273-3005).

#### **References:**

*An Illustrated Guide to Iowa Prairie Plants*; p. 102, Christiansen, P. and Muller.,M.; University of Iowa Press, Iowa City, IA 1999.

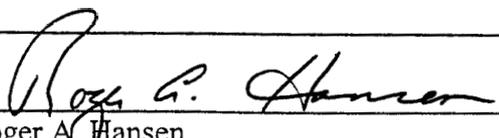
*Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers*; p. 53; Ladd, D. and Oberle, F., Falcon Press, Helena MT 1995.

#### **Prepared by:**

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Signatures for release of:

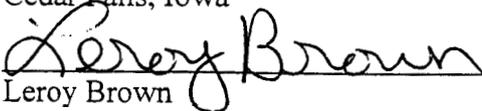
Northern Iowa Germplasm Purple Prairie Clover (*Dalea purpurea* Vent.)

  
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Roger A. Hansen  
State Conservationist  
United States Department of Agriculture  
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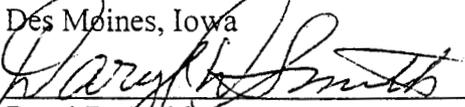
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Date

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Robert Koob  
President  
University of Northern Iowa  
Cedar Falls, Iowa

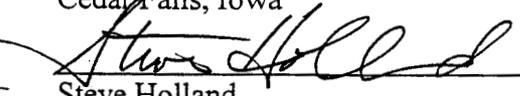
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Leroy Brown  
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Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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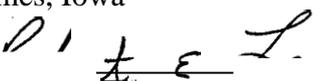
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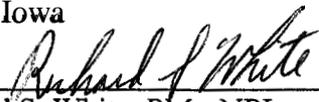
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Holland  
~~NRVC, Director~~ Administrator Iowa Living Roadway Trust Fund  
Iowa Department of Transportation  
Ames, Iowa

07/11/03  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert E. Lawson  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Iowa Crop Improvement Association  
Ames, Iowa

6-26-03  
Date

  
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For Director, Ecological Sciences *for Diane Gel* rd  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Washington, D.C.

9/5/03  
Date