

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION, ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

and the

NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF 'SEA. ISLE' JAPANESE SEDGE

The United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station announce the release of 'Sea Isle' Japanese sedge (Carex kobomugi Ohwi). It was developed by the Soil Conservation Service Plant Materials Center at Cape May Court House, New Jersey.

The original plants were collected on Island Beach State Park, New Jersey in 1965. Initially, the collection was designated as NJ-406 and later as PI-433953. Japanese sedge was first observed along the United States coast about 1925. Stands are uniform in appearance and may have developed from the same clonal material.

Japanese sedge is a low growing, leafy, slowly spreading perennial sedge. The grass-like leaves of Sea Isle are leathery, light green in color, and range from 4-10 millimeters in width. Numerous stout rhizomes result in the formation of new colonies. Seeds are produced but most natural propagation is vegetative. Mature plants are about 30 cm tall. Initial transplanting mortality is often high, however, the surviving plants persist and spread slowly into excellent stands. The density of stands varies from open cover in new plantings to almost completely covering the soil in mature stands. The most outstanding attributes of Sea Isle are its long life, low fertility requirements, and resistance to disease, insects and foot traffic on sand dunes.

The principal use of Sea Isle will be for interplanting with or into stands of American beachgrass and for use in areas of heavy foot traffic on coastal dunes. Propagation will be by vegetative means.

Field tests of Sea Isle show it to be well adapted from Long Island, New York southward through South Carolina. Additional plantings are being conducted to determine its adaptation to more northern and southern locations,

Breeder material of Sea Isle will be maintained by the Soil Conservation Service. Foundation plants will be available from the Cape May Plant Materials Center, Cape May Court House, New Jersey 08210.

Robert C. Hilborn ~~ACTING~~
Director, Ecological Science Division
United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
Washington, D.C.

1/24/84
DATE

Joseph C. Brancor
State Conservationist
United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
Somerset, New Jersey

1/13/84
DATE

Paul A. W. J.
Director
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station
Cook College, Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey

2/17/84
DATE