

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

AND

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

NOTICE OF NAMING AND RELEASE OF 'SALADO' ALKALI
SACATON FOR SOIL STABILIZATION AND RANGE FORAGE.

The New Mexico State University's Agricultural Experiment Station and United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service announce the naming and release of 'Salado' alkali sacaton (Sporobolus airoides) (Torr.) Torr.

ORIGIN:

Collected **from** shallow **upland** range site in 1958, 12 kilometers south of Claunch, **New Mexico** at 1800 meter elevation. The average annual precipitation at Claunch is about 30 centimeters.

DESCRIPTION :

Similar in growth form to bottomland types. A perennial large, tough bunchgrass culms erect to spreading 50 to 100 cm **tall**; sheaths **pilose** at the throat; ligule **pilose**; leaf **blades** elongate, flat becoming involute, usually less than 4mm wide, often flexuous; panicle **nearly** half the entire height of the plant, at maturity half to two-thirds as **wide as** long, the *stiff* slender branches and branchlets finally widely spreading, naked at base, the spikelets aggregate along the upper half to two-thirds and are 2 cm long; the first glume about half as long, commonly **falling** toward maturity.¹

¹Adapted from "Manual of the Grasses of the United States" by A. D. Hitchcock

METHOD OF DEVELOPMENT:

'Salado' was initially selected as a potential improved cultivar in 1966 after limited comparisons with other accessions of alkali sacaton. Seed from the original collection was used to establish a seed increase field. Over the years 'Salado' has been evaluated for seedling vigor, establishment, forage and seed production. In testing, 'Salado' was identified as NM-184, P-15617, PI-434444, and A16954.

AREA OF ADAPTATION:

The complete area of adaptation is unknown. 'Salado' has shown potential for use in New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Arizona where alkali sacaton is adapted at elevations of 500 to 2500 meters. 'Salado' may be more drought resistant and earlier maturing than 'Saltalk'. Alkali sacaton is sometimes difficult to establish. To successfully establish alkali sacaton, data have shown it is critical that moisture occurs within 4 weeks of seeding.

USES:

Alkali sacaton is a native, warm season bunchgrass, adapted to moderately saline and alkaline soils. Alkali sacaton is typically found on alkaline soils of bottomlands and flats and on sandy plateaus and washes. It provides good forage and ground cover and is adapted on light to heavy textured soils. It is useful for range improvement, mined land reclamation, highway revegetation and forage production on most of the arid lands in the west.

SEED PRODUCTION:

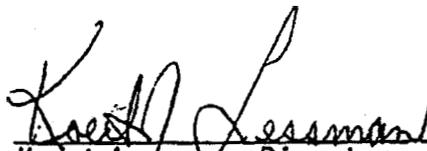
'Salado' should be planted in rows 36-42 inches apart at a rate of .25-.50 lbs. pure

live seeds (PLS) per acre. **Excellent** production can **be** expected the first 5 years, after which production **appears** erratic. Yields have ranged from 50 to 328 PLS#/Acre with an average around 200 PLS#/Acre. Multiple applications of insecticides **appear** beneficial to maximum seed production.

SEED INCREASE AND DISTRIBUTION:

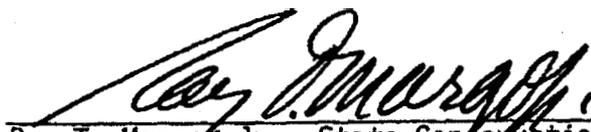
Breeders and Foundation seed will be maintained and produced at the Plant Materials Center at Los Lunas, New Mexico. Limited quantities of foundation seed will be available in 1982 to seed growers through the New Mexico Crop Improvement Association, **Box 3CI**, New Mexico State University, **Las Cruces**, NM 88003.

SIGNATURES:



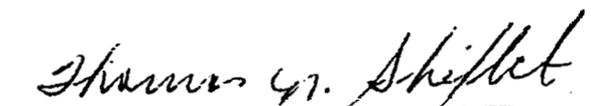
Koert Lessman, Director
NMSU Agricultural Station and Chairman
of New Mexico Varietal Release Committee,
Las Cruces. NM

Date: 1-3-83



Ray T. Margo, Jr., State Conservationist
United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service

Date: 12/14/82



Dr. Thomas N. Shiflet, Director
Ecological Sciences and Technological
Division
United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service

Date: 1/18/83