

Notice of Release of
'Keystone' Buttonbush (~~Cephalanthus occidentalis~~ L.)
For Conservation Plantings

By

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Ecological Science Division
Washington, DC

and

Pennsylvania Game Commission
Harrisburg Pennsylvania

The US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), and the Pennsylvania Game Commission announce the release of Keystone buttonbush, Cephalanthus occidentalis L. Keystone was selected at the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Plant Materials Center, Big Flats, New York.

'Keystone', PI-9051750, is an open pollinated composite of accessions: 9026820, 9026824, 90288215, 9028620, and 9028621. Accessions 9026820, 9028620, and, 9028621 were collected from Crawford County, Pa., accession 9026824 was collected from Mason County, WV, and accession 9028215 was collected from Wayne County, NY. These accessions were selected from 38 accessions collected from the following states: NY, PA, WV, MA, TX, ME, VT, and NJ. The accessions

were evaluated over a 7 year period for vigor, stem and foliage abundance, and basal area. From the top 5 accessions the best 3 plants were transplanted to a randomized crossing block.

Buttonbush is a native, deciduous, wetland shrub which grows to a mature height of up to 8 feet in the north and up to 20 feet in the southern part of its range. It can tolerate periodic flooding with depths up to 3 feet. Buttonbush is found from New Brunswick to Florida, west to southern Minnesota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, southern New Mexico, Arizona, and central California. It also occurs in Cuba, Mexico and eastern Asia. Keystone buttonbush was selected due to superior plant vigor, abundant stem and leaf growth, with no serious pest problems.

The principal use for 'Keystone', buttonbush is in wetland restoration, riparian area development or restoration, and wildlife food and cover. Buttonbush may be especially useful for use around waterfowl impoundments with moderately fluctuating water levels. Buttonbush is an obligate wetland plant, but will live if planted on some upland sites.

A breeders seed production block (Foundation cutting stock) will be maintained by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Big Flats, Plant Materials Center, Box 360A, RD#1, Rt. 352, Corning New York 14830. (Rooted cuttings) Two year

old seedlings are available to commercial and state nurseries for the purpose of establishing seed orchards. Propagation procedures will be provided to those receiving plants.

Approvals for Notice of Release of 'Keystone' Buttonbush

Mary R. Nordstrom
Director of Ecological Sciences and
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United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Washington, DC

1/31/97
Date

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State Conservationist
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Executive Director
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Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

1/6/97
Date