

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
AND
NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
AND
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRY
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Notice of Release of Aroostook Rye

The United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service; New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University; and Maine Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry, announce the release of 'Aroostook' rye (Secale cereale L.). It was developed by the Soil Conservation Service Plant Materials Center) Big Flats, New York, with concurrent testing by the University of Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, Presque Isle, Maine.

Aroostook is from seed originally purchased through Stanford Seed Co., Buffalo, New York, which was grown in New York State from certified 'Balbo' rye. Seed was designated as NY-6030 when received at Big Flats Plant Materials Center in 1975, and later assigned PI-T12815.

Aroostook rye was selected for use as a cover crop plant for northern Maine, following late harvested potatoes. There were 800 rye cultivars and numbered assessions tested. Aroostook produced significantly more growth when seeded Late in the fall, more spring growth, and exhibited more winter hardiness than others tested, including Breeder seed of Balbo at both Big Flats, New York and Presque Isle, Maine.

Aroostook rye is fairly tall growing, averaging 67 centimeters. It has narrow, dark green leaves and is slightly curved to incline heads at maturity. The medium sized seed is about 2.5 mm wide by 7.5 mm long.

The principal use of Aroostook rye is as a cover crop for late harvested crops. At Presque Isle, Maine, it produces sufficient fall growth to provide some soil protection over winter when 260 to 350 growing degree days (base 40°F) remain after seeding. It should be useful following late harvested crops in other geographic areas.

Breeder seed of Aroostook rye will be maintained by the Soil Conservation Service Plant Materials Center, Big Flats, New York. Arrangements are pending for the production and maintenance of foundation seed. Foundation seed will be available in the fall of 1981.

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