

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

and the

TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF 'AZTEC' MAXIMILIAN SUNFLOWER

The United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station announce the naming and release of 'Aztec' Maximilian sunflower (*Helianthus Maximiliani* Schrader). It was developed by the Soil Conservation Service, USDA, in cooperation with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas. The release is cosponsored by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

'Aztec' Maximilian sunflower was developed by bulking the seed of five native collections from the central part of Texas which were very similar in performance at the Knox City Plant Materials Center. The bulked material was assigned test number PMT-1564, and later named 'Aztec'. 'Aztec' was increased in isolation at the plant materials center and tested in field plantings throughout the state for adaptation and performance. 'Aztec' proved to be adapted to most soil types for use in range seeding mixtures in areas receiving 18 inches or more annual precipitation.

Protein and digestibility tests indicate that it should be valuable for forage for livestock and deer. Field tests indicate that 'Aztec' is readily grazed in mixed plantings. Wildlife species have been observed to use the plant for cover and food purposes.

Native Maximilian sunflower occurs in seven of the ten vegetation zones of Texas and in all parts of Oklahoma, but the potential adverse effects of the release have not been fully evaluated. Insect and disease host potential and weediness problems were not observed or documented during the testing period but could possibly result from plantings in some situations.

Three classes of seed (Breeder, Foundation, and Certified) of 'Aztec' Maximilian sunflower are recognized. Breeder seed will be maintained by

