

JUL 25 1977 Cenchrus

TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

T 3267

and the

P1-476989

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

and the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF NUECES BUFFELGRASS

The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and the Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, announce the release and naming of Nueces buffelgrass. It was developed by the Agricultural Research Service, USDA, in cooperation with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, College Station, Texas, and the Soil Conservation Service, USDA.

Nueces buffelgrass, Cenchrus ciliaris L, is an apomictic F₁ hybrid derived from the cross TAM-CRD B-1s sexual clone (Reg. No. GP1) x a rhizomatous "blue type" introduction from Africa. Nueces (experimental hybrid #2-1) reproduces by obligate apospory and breeds true, thus no further selection was required to assure uniformity. Mode of reproduction was determined by cytological study of embryo sac development of the F₁ and confirmed by progeny tests through six generations.

Nueces has been evaluated extensively for adaptation, forage yield, and forage quality in replicated field trials. Advantages over presently available cultivars are (1) improved cold tolerance, (2) superior forage production, and (3) higher digestibility, based upon ~~in vivo~~ studies. Present buffelgrass cultivars, IT-4464' (common) and 'Higgins' are generally considered adapted south of a line from San Antonio to Uvalde, Texas. However, stands are often severely damaged by freezing temperatures up to 75 miles south of this line. Nueces has proven winter hardy 75 miles further north than present cultivars and provides a buffelgrass for an entirely new area. It also provides a superior and more reliable cultivar **for** areas further south. At Beeville, Texas, Nueces has averaged producing approximately 1000 pounds more forage (dry matter per acre) per year than T-4464 and Higgins.

The new cultivar gets its name from the Nueces river which originates near the northern limit of adaptation of the cultivar in Texas and flows diagonally across the area where the cultivar is expected to be of maximum benefit.

Notice of Release of Nueces Buffelgrass (continued)

Three classes of seed (Breeders, Foundation, and Certified) of Nueces buffelgrass are recognized. Breeder seed will be maintained by the Soil and Crop Sciences Department, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. Foundation seed will be maintained and distributed by the Foundation Seed Service, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, College Station, Texas.

Effective release date will be date of final signature.



Director, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station

MAY 30 1977

Date



Administrator, Soil Conservation Service

JUN 20 1977

Date



Administrator, Agricultural Research Service

6/23/77

Date