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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 'ALAMO' SWITCHGRASS

The United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station announce the naming and release of 'Alamo' switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum* L.). It was developed by the Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, College Station, Texas.

'Alamo' switchgrass was collected from the north bank of the Frio River by Laramie McEntire of the Soil Conservation Service. It was evaluated, selected, and increased at the Knox City Plant Materials Center and tested in almost 100 plantings in Texas as PMT-788.

'Alamo' has been extensively evaluated for adaptation and forage yield in replicated and nonreplicated plantings. Advantages over presently available cultivars are (1) improved adaptation and (2) superior forage production. Present switchgrass cultivars are adapted only to the northern portion of Texas and stands fail to establish or are short-lived when planted further south in the state. Present switchgrass cultivars usually bloom and set seed in early summer at the Knox City Plant Materials Center, while 'Alamo' usually blooms about two months later. 'Alamo' has proven to be a more adapted, longer-lived, and more productive switchgrass for much of the state. 'Alamo' has proven effective for use on watershed structure berms to help prevent wave erosion.

Notice of Release of 'Alamo' Switchgrass (Continued)

Three classes of seed (Breeder, Foundation, and Certified) of 'Alamo' switchgrass are recognized. Breeder seed will be maintained by the Soil Conservation Service, Knox City Plant Materials Center, Knox City, Texas. Foundation seed will be produced at this location under the supervision of the Foundation Seed Service, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, College Station, Texas, and the Texas Department of Agriculture.

George C. Mark
State Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service, Texas

APR - 7 1978

Date

Shirley D. Shifflet
Director
Ecological Sciences and Technology Division

Apr 19, 1978

Date

W. C. O'Leary
Director
Texas Agricultural Experiment Station

4-4-78

Date