File Cenchrus

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
Washington, D. C. 20250

and

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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
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and

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
Washington, D. C. 20250

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF LLANO BUFFELGRASS

The Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, announce the release and naming of 'Llano' 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.

Llano buffelgrass, Cenchrus ciliaris L., is an apomictic F_1 hybrid derived from the cross TAM-CRD B-1s sexual clone (Reg. No. GPI) x a rhizomatous "blue type" introduction from Africa. Llano (experimental hybrid #331) 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 F_1 and confirmed by progeny tests through four generations.

Llano has been evaluated extensively for adaptation, forage yield and persistence in replicated field trials. Advantages over presently available cultivars are (1) superior cold tolerance, (2) significantly better forage production, (3) earlier spring production, and (4) excellent persistence due to an extensive rhizomatous root system. Present buffelgrass cultivars, 'T-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. Well established stands of Llano have survived up to 100 miles further north than T-4464 and Higgins. Llano is adapted some 50 miles further north than 'Nueces' and also provides an earlier highly productive cultivar for areas further south. At Beeville, Texas, Llano has produced an average of approximately 1500 pounds more forage dry matter per acre per year than T-4464 and Higgins.

The new cultivar gets its name from the Llano River which represents the approximate northern limit of adaptation of the cultivar in Texas.

Three classes of seed (Breeders, Foundation and Certified) of Llano 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 of Llano buffelgrass will be the date of final signature.

Ralph J. McCracken — 11/14/77

cting Administrator
Agricultural Research Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Date

Director
Texas Agricultural Experiment Station

NOV 21 1977

Date

"Acting" Walter W. Barney Jr. — DEC 13 1977

Administrator
Soil Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Date