THE TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

and

THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
PLANT MATERIALS PROGRAM

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF OVERTON R18 ROSE CLOVER VARIETY

'Overton R18' rose clover (*Trifolium hirtum* All.) was developed by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service, and will be released in 1991.

This cultivar is a seed increase of a single plant selected from a mixed line (PI 311483) introduced from Spain. This selection was made in 1983 at Overton, TX from a spaced-plant field of four rose clover plant introductions (PI 287973, PI 311483, PI 287975 and PI 311485) and 'Wilton' rose clover. Nineteen rose clover plants were identified with superior cold tolerance, high forage potential (based on rating scale that included leafiness, height, and profuse tillering), and late maturity. These 19 pure line selections were evaluated for forage potential and maturity in 1984 and 10 superior lines identified. These ten elite rose clover breeding lines were evaluated for forage production at multiple locations in Texas each year from 1985 to 1989. Overton R18 rose clover was shown to have a longer, later, and more productive seasonal distribution of forage than the rose clover check varieties 'Kondinin' and 'Hykon'. Overton R18 was slightly less productive than Kondinin or Hykon at the early season harvests, but often produced twice as much dry forage as the rose clover checks in the mid and late season harvests. Total season production of Overton R18 rose clover averaged 65 percent more than Kondinin over 14 location-year environments. Forage quality of this new clover cultivar is high. Protein level of Overton R18 rose clover was consistently above 20% from plots harvested three times in each of three years at Overton, TX. The average

daily gain of steers grazing Overton R18 rose clover in 1989 was 3.5 lbs/day compared to 3.2 and 3.3 lbs/day for crimson and arrowleaf, respectively.

Overton R18 rose clover is a widely adapted, reseeding, winter annual forage legume. It will tolerate soil pH ranging from 6.0 to 7.5. In east Texas, Overton R18 rose clover will flower in early May and mature seed by mid-June. Overton R18 rose clover is drought tolerant but unadapted to wet, poorly drained sites. This annual clover will be useful in overseeding warm-season perennial grass pastures on well-drained upland and prairie soils in the eastern one-half of Texas and across the U.S. Southern Region.

Breeder and foundation seed will be maintained by cooperative agreement through the Soil Conservation Service and the Texas Foundation Seed Service, College Station, TX 77843.

Director
For Texas Agricultural Experiment Station

1 Apr 91
Date

ACTING

State Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service, Texas

APR 24 1991
Date

Director, Ecological Sciences Division
SCS, Washington, DC

June 27, 1991
Date