UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION, ECOLOGICAL SCIENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

and the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SCIENCE AND EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
WASHINGTON, D.C.

and the

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

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF 'LOMETA' INDIANGRASS

The United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service; the United States Department of Agriculture, Science and Education Administration; and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station announce the naming and release of 'Lometa' indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans* (L.) Nash). It was developed by the Soil Conservation Service, USDA, and released in cooperation with the Science and Education Administration, USDA, and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas. (This indiangrass has been assigned the permanent number PI-434362.)

'Lometa' indiangrass was collected from a native stand on the Kirby Ranch east of Lometa, Texas, by Soil Conservation Service personnel stationed at Lampasas, Texas. It was evaluated, selected, and increased at the Knox City Plant Materials Center and tested in over 40 plantings in Texas as PMT-802.

'Lometa' has been extensively evaluated for forage yields in both replicated and nonreplicated plantings. Advantages over presently available cultivars are (1) improved adaptation and (2) superior forage production. Present indiangrass 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 indiangrass cultivars usually bloom and set seed in midsummer at the Knox City Plant Materials Center, while 'Lometa' usually blooms two to four weeks later. 'Lometa' has proven to be better adapted, longer-lived, and more productive indiangrass for much of the state. Evaluations in southern Oklahoma and northwestern Arkansas have also shown this grass to be quite competitive with commercial cultivars available in those areas. The full range of adaptability outside of the State of Texas is inconclusive, but it appears to be best adapted (for range mixes) in Texas on areas receiving 22 inches or greater natural rainfall. Soils west of this precipitation zone should either be irrigated or planted in overflow-bottomland sites.

Notice of Release of 'Lometa' Indiangrass (Continued)

Four classes of seed (Breeder, Foundation, Registered, and Certified) of 'Lometa' indiangrass 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 Marks — DEC 3 0 1980

State Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service, Texas

Date

Thomas A. Shiflet for — 3/12/81

Deputy Chief
Technology Development and Application
Soil Conservation Service, Washington, D.C.

Date

for M. E. Carter — 4/3/81

Administrator, Agricultural Research
Science and Education Administration
Washington, D.C.

Date

D. G. Maxfield — MAR 04 1981

Director
Texas Agricultural Experiment Station
College Station, Texas

Date