

USDA - NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

NOTICE OF SELECTED GERMPLASM RELEASE
"Kinney" False Rhodesgrass

The USDA-NRCS announces the naming and release of selected germplasm of "Kinney" False rhodesgrass, Chloris crinita (lag.).

This False rhodesgrass has been assigned the number PI 434462.

ORIGIN

"Kinney" False rhodesgrass was collected in 1955 from vacant lots in Brackettville, Texas. The seed was probably sent to the San Antonio nursery operated by the Soil Conservation Service. When the San Antonio nursery closed, it was then shipped to the Knox City, Texas, Plant Materials Center. It was sent from the Knox City PMC in 1983 to the South Texas Plant Materials Center for evaluation.

SELECTION STATEMENT: False rhodesgrass is the dominant native grass species over clay loam, claypan prairie, and tight sandy loam range sites across South Texas. "Kinney" False rhodesgrass was selected for survivability, vigor, forage production, drought tolerance, and early green-up. When included in seed mixtures, this native, warm-season, perennial bunchgrass will be of value for early season forage and native range restoration.

ECOTYPE DESCRIPTION:

Root and Stem: Culms to 1 m. tall, glabrous, tufted, or stoloniferous. Sheaths glabrous to sparsely hirsute. Ligules prominently ciliate.

Leaves: Scabrous to 20 cm. Long, 5-10 mm. Wide.

Inflorescence: Panicles with 6-20 branches that are up to 15 cm. Long in several close verticils. Spikelets imbricate with 7-9 spikelets per cm. Of rachis, pales to tawny. Glumes narrowly lanceolate, glabrous except for the scabrous midnerve, the first glume 0.8-1.1 mm. Long, the second 2-2.5 mm. Long. Lower lemma dorsally flattened, narrowly lanceolate to elliptic, scabrous especially above middle 2.4-3.8 mm. Long, 3-awned, the central awn 8-12 mm. long, the lateral awns usually shorter. Sterile floret usually 1, occasionally 2, greatly reduced, cylindrical, 1-1.5 mm. long, gradually narrowing into subequal awns 5-7 mm. long. *(From: Gould, The Grasses of Texas, 1975).

Seed: the seed unit is approximately 2.4-3.8 mm. long. There are about 1,428,000 seeds per pound. Seed maturity occurs usually twice a year, once in

early summer and again in late fall. Seed quality averages a 55 percent germination at the South Texas Plant Materials Center.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

It is adapted to both heavy and light soils but prefers heavier soils near streams. It is found on range sites such as clay loam, claypan prairie, shallow ridge, and sandy loam. It is found associated with multi-flowered false rhodesgrass, plains bristlegrass, and pink pappusgrass. Its natural range is south of San Antonio, Texas, in the western two-thirds of the Rio Grande Plain of Texas on west to Arizona.


OBSERVED SELECTION TRAITS AND PERFORMANCE:

Ten accessions were subjectively evaluated in a non-competitive, spaced plant nursery over a period of five years (1986-1990) on Victoria clay and Raymondville clay loam soils at the South Texas PMC. "Kinney" false rhodesgrass had the highest survival rate maintaining a 90% stand throughout an extended period of drought. It produced the most seed heads and had earlier green-up than most other accessions, while being very vigorous and productive. "Kinney" false rhodesgrass generally beings to green up the first week in February at the South Texas Plant Materials Center in Kingsville. Plant height at STPMC averages 55 cm. And plant width is 65 cm. of vegetative forage by the end of February.

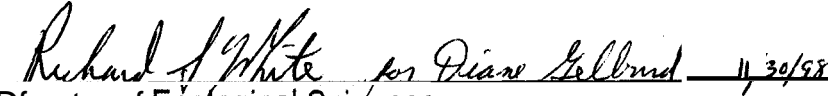
AVAILABILITY OF PLANT MATERIALS:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service will maintain Breeder block and produce Foundation seed at the Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center in Kingsville under the supervision of the Foundation Seed Service and the Texas Department of Agriculture.

APPROVALS:



State Conservationist **Acting**



Director of Ecological Sciences 11/30/98