

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
ABERDEEN, IDAHO  
and  
IDAHO AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
ABERDEEN, IDAHO

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF NEBRASKA SEDGE  
FOR LAND RESOURCE REGION B WEST  
SELECTED CLASS OF NATURAL GERMPLASM

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station announce the release of a selected ecotype of Nebraska Sedge (*Carex nebrascensis*) for Land Resource Region B West.

As a Selected release, this plant will not be given a name, but will be referred to as Centennial selection of Nebraska Sedge to document its original collection location. The Centennial selection is released as a Selected Class of certified seed (natural track).

This alternative release procedure is justified because existing commercial sources of Nebraska Sedge are inadequate. Propagation material of specific ecotypes is needed for ecosystem restoration, enhancement, and construction of wetlands. The potential for immediate use is high, and commercial potential beyond specific wetland uses is probably limited. No commercial cultivars of Nebraska Sedge have been released at this time.

<b>Species:</b>	<i>Carex nebrascensis</i> Dewey
<b>Common Name:</b>	Nebraska Sedge
<b>Plant Symbol:</b>	CANE2
<b>Accession Number:</b>	9057599

**Source:** Centennial Marsh Wildlife Management Area, just south of the town of Hill City, Camas County, Idaho.

**Collection area Information:** Stands are located within the Centennial Marsh WMA. Very little variability among CANE2 stands was observed within the boundaries of the WMA. This variability was judged to be inconsequential. Therefore, any collection of CANE2 located within the WMA boundary would be considered a constituent of this Selected Release. Elevation is approximately 5000 feet. The soils are mostly poorly drained loams.

**Method of Selection:** From a Nebraska Sedge collection found in Land Resource (LRR) Region B West, which includes Major Land Resource Regions (MLRAs) western 2/3 of 11, and all of 10.

A total of 22 collections from the Aberdeen PMC Service Area were evaluated from 1991 to 1995. All collections were evaluated for survival, vigor, overall growth and spread, seed production, and above ground biomass production. Of these collections, two were from LRR B West. The Centennial collection outperformed all other collections from B West in all categories. It also ranked first out of all 22 collections from the Service Area in potential seed production, public accessibility, and stability of land ownership. The Centennial selection of Nebraska Sedge was selected for its potential seed production, public accessibility, stability of land ownership, rapid spreading from rhizomes, shoot density per unit area, vigor, and above ground biomass production. This accession needs special seed treatment and stratification procedures to achieve acceptable germination rates.

**Description:** *Carex nebrascensis* is a perennial, rhizomatous, wetland obligate. Stems are upright, triangular, and grow up to 3 feet tall. The leaves are elongated, alternate, longer or shorter than the stem, up to ½ inch wide, and often with a bluish tinge. The flowers are borne in spikes. Male and female flowers are usually in separate spikes on the same plant. One or two male spikes are found above the female spikes, are narrowly cylindrical, and up to 2 inches long. Female spikes number from 2 to 5, are up to 3 inches long, and the lowest spike is subtended by a leafy bract.

**Anticipated Conservation Use:** The potential uses of the Centennial selection of Nebraska Sedge include erosion control, Constructed Wetland System applications, wildlife food/cover, wetland creations and restorations, and for increasing plant diversity in wetland and riparian communities. Its tendency to spread rhizomatously makes the Centennial selection an excellent plant for soil stabilization in sites which are saturated up to 2 or 3 inches of standing water. The rhizomes also form a matrix for many beneficial bacteria making this plant an excellent choice for wastewater treatment.

**Potential Area of Adaptation:** *Carex nebrascensis* is an obligate wetland plant and is found throughout the Intermountain West. It commonly inhabits poorly drained soils which are saturated or have up to 2 or 3 inches of standing water. It will tolerate long periods of inundation. The Centennial selection would be an excellent choice for use throughout the ecoregion defined as LRR B west.

**Seed Maintenance:** Breeders seed will NOT be maintained by the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center. To make collections of the Centennial selection of Nebraska Sedge, contact the Centennial Wildlife Management Area Manager, Idaho Fish and Game, Magic Valley Region, 868 East Main Street, P.O. Box 428, Jerome, ID 83338-0428, (208) 324-4359. For official Selected tags to verify genetic identity of these plant materials, contact Idaho Crop Improvement Association (208) 377-3420.

**Signature sheet for release of a selected class of:**

**Centennial Selection of Nebraska Sedge (*Carex nebrascensis*)** for Land Resource  
Region B East from Centennial Marsh Wildlife Management Area, just south of  
the town of Hill City, Camas County, Idaho.

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Dr. Richard C. Heimsch Date  
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ID Agricultural Experiment Station  
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Director  
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