

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ABERDEEN, IDAHO
and
NEVADA STATE DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RENO, NEVADA

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF NEBRASKA SEDGE
FOR LAND RESOURCE REGION D SOUTH
SELECTED CLASS OF NATURAL GERMPLOSM

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Nevada Division of Agriculture announce the release of a selected ecotype of Nebraska Sedge (*Carex nebrascensis*) for Land Resource Region (LRR) D South.

As a Selected release, this plant will not be given a name, but will be referred to as the Ruby Lake selection of Nebraska Sedge to document its original collection location. The Ruby Lake 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.

Species:	<i>Carex nebrascensis</i> Dewey
Common Name:	Nebraska Sedge
Plant Symbol:	CANE2
Accession Number:	9057639

Source: Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, near the town of Ruby Lake, Elko County, Nevada.

Collection area Information: Stands are located within the Ruby Lake NWR. Very little variability among CANE2 stands was observed within the boundaries of the NWR. This variability was judged to be inconsequential. Therefore, any collection of CANE2 located within the NWR boundary would be considered a constituent of this Selected Release. Elevation is between 5900 and 6000 feet. The soils are mostly poorly drained calcareous loams.

Method of Selection: From a Nebraska Sedge collection found in Land Resource (LRR) Region D South, which includes Major Land Resource Regions (MLRAs) 28a, 28b, and 29.

A total of 22 collections were evaluated at the Aberdeen Plant Materials Center from 1991 to 1995. All collections were evaluated for survival, vigor, overall growth and spread, potential seed production, and above ground biomass production. Of these 22 collections, two were from D South. The Ruby Lake collection outperformed all other collections from D South. It also ranked in the top five overall for the evaluated traits. The Ruby Lake selection of Nebraska Sedge was selected for its rapid spreading from rhizomes, vigor, height, 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 1/2 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 Ruby Lake selection of *Carex nebrascensis* 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 Ruby Lake 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 Ruby Lake selection would be an excellent choice for use throughout the ecoregion defined as LRR D South.

Seed Maintenance: Breeders seed will NOT be maintained by the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center. To make collections of the Ruby Valley selection of Nebraska Sedge, contact the Refuge Manager, Ruby Valley National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, HC 60 Box 860, Ruby Valley, NV 89833-9802, (702) 779-2237.

Signature sheet for release of a selected class of:

Ruby Lake Selection of Nebraska Sedge (*Carex nebrascensis*) for Land Resource Region (LRR) D South from Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, near the town of Ruby Lake, Elko County, Nevada.

Luana E. Kiger Date _____
Idaho State Conservationist
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

William D. Goddard Date _____
Nevada State Conservationist
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Date _____
Director
Nevada State Division of Agriculture

Gary R. Nordstrom Date _____
Director
Biological Conservation Sciences Division
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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