

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 EAST
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 East.

As a Selected release, this plant will not be given a name, but will be referred to as the Sterling selection of Nebraska Sedge to document its original collection location. The Sterling 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:	9067420

Source: Sterling Wildlife Management Area, just north of the town of Aberdeen, Bingham County, Idaho.

Collection area Information: Stands are located within Sterling Wildlife Management Area. 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.

Stands are located in Section 12 and 13, Township 5 South, Range 31 East. Elevation is between 4300 and 4400 feet, the soils are mostly poorly drained calcareous loams.

Method of Selection: From a Nebraska Sedge collection found in Land Resource (LRR) Region B East, which includes Major Land Resource Areas (MLRAs) eastern 1/3 of 11, all of 12 and 13.

A total of 22 collections were evaluated at the Aberdeen Plant Materials Center from 1991 to 1995. A total of five populations of CANE2 were compared and evaluated throughout LRR B East. The Sterling population ranked first in terms of public accessibility, stability of land ownership, and potential seed production. The Sterling selection of Nebraska Sedge was selected for its potential seed production, stability of land ownership, public accessibility, 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 Sterling 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 Sterling 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 early in the growing season. It will tolerate long periods of inundation. It will handle long periods of drought later in the growing season. The Sterling selection would be an excellent choice for use throughout the ecoregion defined as LRR B East.

Seed Maintenance: Breeders seed will NOT be maintained by the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center. To make collections of the Sterling selection of Nebraska Sedge, contact the Sterling Wildlife Management Area Manager, Idaho Fish and Game, Southeast Region, 1345 Barton Road, Pocatello, ID 83204-1819, (208) 232-4703. 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:

Sterling Selection of Nebraska Sedge (*Carex nebrascensis*) for Land Resource Region
B East from the Sterling Wildlife Management Area, just north of the town of
Aberdeen, Bingham County, Idaho.

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

Date

Dr. Richard C. Heimsch
Director
ID Agricultural Experiment Station
University of Idaho

Date

Gary R. Norstrom
Director
Biological Conservation Sciences Division
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Date