

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
ABERDEEN, IDAHO

and

NEVADA STATE DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RENO, NEVADA

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF CREEPING SPIKERUSH  
FOR LAND RESOURCE REGION D SOUTH  
SELECTED CLASS OF NATURAL GERMPLASM

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Nevada Division of Agriculture announce the release of a selected ecotype of Creeping Spikerush (*Eleocharis palustris*) 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 Creeping Spikerush 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 Creeping Spikerush 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 Creeping Spikerush have been released at this time.

<b>Species:</b>	<i>Eleocharis palustris</i> (L.) Roemer & J.A. Schultes
<b>Synonymy:</b>	<i>Eleocharis palustris</i> var. <i>australis</i> , <i>E. palustris</i> var. <i>major</i> , <i>E. macrostachya</i> , <i>E. mamillata</i> , <i>E. calva</i>
<b>Common Name:</b>	Creeping Spikerush
<b>Plant Symbol:</b>	ELPA3
<b>Accession Number:</b>	9067387

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

**Collection area Information:** Stands are located within the boundaries of the Ruby Lake NWR. Very little variability among ELPA3 stands was observed within the boundaries of the NWR. This variability was judged to be inconsequential. Therefore, any collection of ELPA3 located within the NWR boundary would be considered a constituent of this Selected Release. Elevation is between 5900 and 6000 feet. Soils are mostly poorly drained calcareous loams.

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

A total of 16 ELPA3 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 16 collections, two were from D South. Ruby Lake collection outperformed all other collections from the Aberdeen PMC Service Area. The Ruby Lake selection of Creeping Spikerush was selected for its rapid spreading from shoot density per unit area, potential seed production, vigor, height, potential seed production, rhizomes, and above ground biomass production.

**Description:** *Eleocharis palustris* is a perennial, rhizomatous, wetland obligate plant. Culms are scattered or in small clusters on the rhizome. Stems are upright, slender to very stout, and may be from 1 to 3.5 feet tall. Achene lenticular, yellow to dark brown, finely cellular-roughened, mostly 1.5-2.5 mm long including the well differentiated tubercle that is commonly 0.4-0.7 mm long and constricted at the base. Inflorescence is a solitary terminal spikelet.

**Anticipated Conservation Use:** The potential uses of the Ruby Lake selection of *Eleocharis palustris* 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 with saturated soils or up to 3 feet 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:** *Eleocharis palustris* 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 3 feet of standing water. It will tolerate periods of inundation and drought. 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 Creeping Spikerush, 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 Creeping Spikerush (*Eleocharis palustris*) for Land Resource Region (LRR) D South from Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, near the town of Ruby Lake, Elko County, Nevada.**

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Idaho State Conservationist  
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Date

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

Date

Director  
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Date

Gary R. Nordstrom  
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Date

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