

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

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF BALTIC RUSH  
FOR LAND RESOURCE REGION B WEST  
SELECTED CLASS OF NATURAL GERMPASM

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station announce the release of a selected ecotype of Baltic Rush (*Juncus balticus*) for Land Resource Region (LRR) B West.

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

This alternative release procedure is justified because existing commercial sources of Baltic Rush 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 Baltic Rush have been released at this time.

<b>Species:</b>	<b><i>Juncus balticus</i></b> Willd.
<b>Common Name:</b>	<b>Baltic Rush</b>
<b>Plant Symbol:</b>	JUBA
<b>Accession Number:</b>	9057580

**Source:** Roswell Wildlife Management Area, just west of the town of Roswell, Canyon County, Idaho.

**Collection area Information:** Stands are located within Roswell Wildlife Management Area. Very little variability among JUBA stands was observed within the boundaries of the WMA. This variability was judged to be inconsequential. Therefore, any collection of JUBA located within the WMA boundary would be considered a constituent of this Selected Release. Elevation is approximately 2200 feet, the soils are mostly poorly drained calcareous loams, and the precipitation ranges from 8 inches to 10 inches.

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

A total of 14 JUBA Collections from the Aberdeen PMC Service Area were evaluated 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 14 collections, four were from LRR B West. The Roswell collection outperformed all other collections from B West in all categories and overall it outperformed all JUBA collections from the Service Area. The Roswell selection of Baltic Rush was selected for its rapid spreading from rhizomes, shoot density per unit area, vigor, height, potential seed production, and above ground biomass production.

**Description:** *Juncus balticus* is a perennial, rhizomatous, facultative wetland plant. Stems are upright, round, wiry, and grow up to 3 feet tall. Leaf sheaths are clustered at the base, bladeless or nearly so. The inflorescence consist of panicles borne laterally on the culms.

**Anticipated Conservation Use:** The potential uses of the Roswell selection of *Juncus balticus* 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 Roswell 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:** *Juncus balticus* is facultative wetland plant, commonly found around the borders of wetlands, and meadows throughout the Intermountain West. It inhabits poorly drained soils which are saturated or have up to 2 or 3 inches of standing water. It will tolerate periods of inundation. The Roswell 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 Roswell selection of Baltic Rush, contact the Roswell Wildlife Management Area Manager, Idaho Fish and Game, Southwest Region, 3101 S. Powerline Road, Nampa, ID 83686, (208) 465-8465. 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:**

**Roswell Selection of Baltic Rush (*Juncus balticus*) for Land Resource  
Region (LRR) B West from Roswell Wildlife Management Area, just West  
of the town of Roswell, Canyon County, Idaho.**

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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. Nordstrom  
Director  
Biological Conservation Sciences Division  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Date