

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ELSBERRY, MISSOURI

And

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA

IOWA INTEGRATED ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
AMES, IOWA

IOWA CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
AMES, IOWA

**NOTICE OF RELEASE OF
NORTHERN IOWA GERMPLASM
PRAIRIE JUNEGRASS
SOURCE IDENTIFIED CLASS OF NATURAL GERMPLASM**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University of Northern Iowa (UNI), the Iowa Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program (IRVM), the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT), and the Iowa Crop Improvement Association (ICIA) announce the release of a source identified ecotype of prairie Junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*) for Northern Iowa counties.

As a source identified release, this plant will be referred to as Northern Iowa Germplasm Prairie Junegrass to document its original collections. Northern Iowa Germplasm Prairie Junegrass is released as a source identified type of certified seed (natural track). It has been assigned the NRCS accession number 9068620.

This alternative release procedure is justified because there are no existing commercial sources of prairie Junegrass collected from numerous native sites throughout this specific region. Propagation material of specific ecotypes is needed for roadside plantings and prairie restoration and enhancement. The potential for immediate use is high.

Collection Site Information: Collections were taken from native prairie remnants within the three tiers of counties located in Northern Iowa.

Ecotype Description: Prairie Junegrass is a native, cool season, perennial grass. It has slender, unbranched stems that grow 1 to 2 feet tall in small, close tufts characteristic of bunchgrasses. The plant is leafy at the base. The leaf blades are thin, less than 1/8 inch across, and grow up to 12 inches long. The leaves are dark green and are stiff and flat. Growth is completed in late

June when the grass goes dormant until fall or the following spring. As the leaves dry, they curl and twist into a spiral shape. They are unevenly veined and rough on the upper surface. Leaf sheaths, at least the lower ones, are usually hairy. These hairs are distinctly curved or bent. The seed head is a dense, unbranched cylinder that is 1 to 6 inches long and ¼ to ½ inch thick.

Environmental Impact Assessment: Northern Iowa Germplasm Prairie Junegrass is a collection of naturally occurring germplasm and has been unaltered. Northern Iowa Germplasm Prairie Junegrass did not meet the assessment of a plant that could become invasive based on guidelines adopted by the NRCS Plant Materials Program.

Anticipated Conservation Use: The potential uses of Northern Iowa Germplasm Prairie Junegrass include roadside plantings, prairie creations and restorations, landscaping, and for increasing plant diversity in prairie communities.

Potential Area of Adaptation: Prairie Junegrass occurs on a wide range of soil conditions throughout prairies and is common on sandy and dry prairies, less common on mesic prairies. Junegrass also occurs on low prairies and in open woods. Junegrass is common throughout the state of Iowa but less common in eastern Iowa.

Availability of Plant Materials: G1 material is being produced in limited supply by the Elsberry Plant Materials Center and the University of Northern Iowa. For information contact USDA, NRCS, Plant Materials Center, 2803 N. Hwy 79, Elsberry, Missouri 63343 (573 898-2012) or The University of Northern Iowa, Roadside Office, 113 CEEE, Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0293 (319 273-3005).

References:

An Illustrated Guide to Iowa Prairie Plants; p. 214, Christiansen, P. and Muller, M.; University of Iowa Press, Iowa City, IA 1999.

Flora of Missouri; pp. 644, 645; Steyermark, J. A.; Missouri Botanical Garden Press, St. Louis, MO 1999.

Wildflowers of the Tallgrass Prairie: The Upper Midwest, pp. 106, 107, Runkel, S. T. and Roosa, D. M., Iowa State University Press, Ames IA 1989.

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**Signatures for release of:
Northern Iowa Germplasm Prairie Junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*)**

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