

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
PLANT SCIENCES DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

AND

MONTANA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
BOZEMAN, MONTANA

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF 'CRITANA' THICKSPIKE WHEATGRASS

The Plant Sciences Division, Soil Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture, and the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station announce the release of Critana thickspike wheatgrass [*Agropyron dasystachyum* (Hook.) Scribn.]. It was developed by J. R. Stroh and A. A. Thornburg, SCS Plant Materials Center, Bridger, Montana, and D. E. Ryerson, Montana State University, Bozeman.

Critana is an open-pollinated line (experimental designations P-15581 and M-286) collected from several roadside cuts on medium- to fine-textured soils near Havre, Montana, in 1960. The bulked collections were directly increased without selection.

Critana is strongly rhizomatous, forming a tight sod under dryland conditions, but little forage. It has excellent seedling vigor. It is low growing with abundant, fine, light green leaves. It contains up to 30 percent glabrous seed heads and a trace of geniculate-awned lemmas. It is adapted to medium- to coarse-textured soils and granular shaley clays in a precipitation range of 6 to 20 inches in the northern Rocky Mountains region and adjacent Great Plains.

Critana was tested and developed primarily for stabilization of disturbed areas, roadsides, airports, recreation areas, and construction sites receiving little or no maintenance.

Breeder's and foundation seed of Critana is maintained by the SCS Plant Materials Center, Bridger, Montana, and is increased under the limited generation program recognizing foundation and certified seed classes. Foundation seed will be available in 1971.

Suggested release date of Critana thickspike wheatgrass is May 1, 1971.



Director
Plant Sciences Division, SCS
U. S. Department of Agriculture

10 MAY 1971
Date

Director
Montana Agricultural Experiment Station

Date