

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ABERDEEN, IDAHO
and
NEVADA STATE DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RENO, NEVADA

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF BALTIC RUSH
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 Baltic Rush (*Juncus balticus*) for Land Resource Region (LRR) D South.

As a Selected germplasm release, this plant will not be given a name, but will be referred to as the Railroad Valley Selection Germplasm of Baltic Rush to document its original collection location. The Railroad Valley Selection Germplasm is released as a Selected Class of certified germplasm (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, 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.

Species: *Juncus balticus* Willd.
Common Name: Baltic Rush
Plant Symbol: JUBA
Accession Number: 9057641

Source: Railroad Valley Wildlife Management Area, 10 miles southwest of Current, Nye County, Nevada.

Collection area Information: Stands are located within the boundaries of the Railroad Valley WMA. Elevation is between 5900 and 6000 feet. The soils are mostly poorly drained calcareous loams.

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

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 Railroad Valley Selection Germplasm 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 Railroad Valley Selection Germplasm 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 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. It will tolerate long periods of inundation. The Railroad Valley Selection Germplasm 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 Railroad Valley Selection Germplasm of Baltic Rush, contact the Manager, Railroad Valley Wildlife Management Area, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Sunnyside, NV (702) 238-5378. For official Selected tags to verify genetic identity of these plant materials, contact Nevada Division of Agriculture (702) 688-1180.

Signature sheet for release of a selected class of:

Railroad Valley Selection Germplasm of Baltic Rush (*Juncus balticus*) for Land Resource Region (LRR) D South from Railroad Valley Wildlife Management Area, near the town of Current, Nye County, Nevada.

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

Date

Nevada State Conservationist
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Date

Paul Iverson
Director
Nevada State Division of Agriculture

Date

MARC SAFLEY
Director
Biological Conservation Sciences Division
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Date