

New Mexico State University
Colorado State University
and
United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service

NOTICE OF NAMING AND RELEASE OF 'HACHITA' BLUE GRAMA FOR RANGE FORAGE AND SOIL STABILIZATION

The Agricultural Experiment Stations of New Mexico State University and Colorado State University, and the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, announce the naming and release of 'Hachita' blue grama [*Bouteloua gracilis* (H. B. K.) Lag. ex Steud.]. Blue grama is a native densely tufted, warm-season grass.

'Hachita' was originally collected in 1957, 32 miles south of Hachita Mountain in southern New Mexico. The site was described as semi-desert plains invaded by mesquite associated with tobosa grass, vine mesquite, burrograss and threeawn. The elevation is 4,400 feet, with 10 inches annual precipitation.

'Hachita' was tested as accession number NM-118. It has been tested and developed at the Los Lunas Plant Materials Center from 1957 to 1979. 'Hachita' has also been tested in Utah, Colorado, Kansas and Texas. Its performance has been equal to or better than the check, Lovington blue grama.

In tests conducted by Dr. A. M. Wilson, SEA, Fort Collins, Colorado, and Dr. Robin L. Cuany, CSU, Fort Collins, Colorado, 'Hachita' was found to have characteristics adapted to better establishment under droughty conditions.

'Hachita' demonstrated the most drought tolerance of 21 accessions tested in 1958 at the Los Lunas Plant Materials Center. Seed production at Los Lunas was equal to Lovington blue grama.

In production tests made by Dr. Paul W. Voigt, SEA, Temple, Texas, "Hachita was the most productive . . . However, differences were usually not statistically significant unless fertilizer was applied."

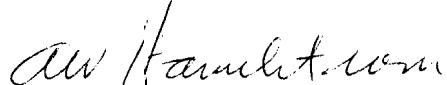
There has been no winterkill in experimental plots established at Fort Collins in 1971; and with limited testing since 1975, 'Hachita' is surviving as well as Lovington near Walden in northern Colorado at an elevation of about 8,000 feet.

'Hachita' is being released for rangeland seedings and revegetation work in the southwest. It is recommended for use in New Mexico and southeastern Colorado where blue grama is recommended. It has been established on soils ranging from sands to gravelly clay loam and in areas where annual precipitation ranges from 8 to 16 inches.

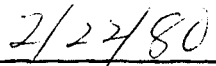
Foundation and breeder seed of 'Hachita' blue grama will be maintained by the USDA Soil Conservation Service, Los Lunas Plant Materials Center. Foundation seed will be available from the New Mexico Crop Improvement Association, Las Cruces, New Mexico, and the Colorado Seed Growers Association, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Supporting data have been presented to the Varietal Release Committees in New Mexico and Colorado; and 'Hachita' blue grama has been accepted for release to commercial growers and users.

Approval signatures:



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Date

Thomas N. Shiflet, Director
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Date

Koert J. Lessman, Associate Director
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