

Kansas State University
Agricultural Experiment Station
Manhattan, Kansas

and

United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
Ecological Sciences and Technology Division
Washington, D. C.

Notice of the Release of a Variety of Little Bluestem

Name: 'Cimarron' little bluestem (Andropogon scoparius Michx.)

Accession Numbers: PMK-152

Origin: Field collections from 170 sites in Kansas, southeast Colorado, northeast New Mexico, and the Oklahoma panhandle were made in 1957 and 1958. Annual precipitation zones of 12 inches to 32 inches were represented, with most collections originating from between the 15 to 25 inch lines. Elevations within the collection area extended from 800 to 5000 feet.

Method of breeding or selection: Of the original collections, 45 were selected as the most leafy, disease free, and prolific seed-head producers. Seed was harvested from the 45 open pollinated accessions and planted in a 5 acre seed production block near Garden City, Kansas. **Seed** from the Garden City planting **was used** to establish the foundation seed production field at Manhattan, Kansas. Generations of increase are limited to two classes: foundation and certified.

Description: Cimarron little bluestem is a tall, leafy composite of ecotypes from southwest Kansas and adjacent parts of Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma. As such it exhibits variability in plant types but maintains a characteristic blue-green color under annual precipitation as low as 12 inches at Garden City, Kansas. Also at that location Cimarron was significantly better than other available accessions in dry matter production and foliage height.

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During 1976 (Stubbenieck et. al. ^{1/}) found Cimarron to have higher protein content and dry matter digestibility than all other little bluestem cultivars and strains under dryland test.

Seed yields of Cimarron have averaged 75 lb. PLS/A over a four year period at Manhattan, Kansas. The highest yield of 133 lb. PLS/A was harvested during 1976, a relatively dry year. Low yields have occurred during the wet years of 1975 and 1977.

Conservation use or potential: Cimarron will be used in mixtures of grasses and forbs for range seedings, and in mixtures for seeding critical areas such as roadsides, embankments, and other plantings where native vegetation is the objective. It is an excellent cultivar for use in western and central Kansas, the Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles, eastern Colorado and southwest Nebraska.

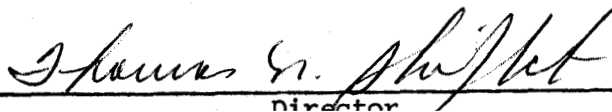
Availability of seed or planting stock: Foundation seed is available from the Manhattan Plant Materials Center, SCS, Manhattan, Kansas. Certified seed is available now from commercial seed growers in Kansas and will be available soon in Nebraska.

Publication of release notice: Publication of this release notice will occur in January, 1979. Certified seed will be available to the public at that time.


Director

Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station

January 24, 1979
Date


Director

Ecological Sciences and Technology Division, SCS
U. S. Department of Agriculture

Feb. 1, 1979
Date

^{1/} Stubbenieck, J.; Foster, M.; Jones, M. 1976 Progress Report of Range Management Research In the Nebraska Panhandle.