

TRAIL of TEARS CORN

In 1830 the Congress of the United States passed a bill called the "Indian Removal Act". The Cherokee fought removal legally by challenging the removal law in the Supreme Court of the United States. The Cherokee challenged the law as an independent Cherokee Nation.



A Trail of Tears Corn cornfield at the Plant Materials Center

In 1832 the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Cherokee in Worcester v. Georgia. In this case Chief Justice John Marshall ruled the Cherokee Nation was sovereign. This ruling made the removal law invalid.

However, due to many factors the Cherokee Nation in 1835 was politically divided. A minority of Cherokee supported the removal and signed the Treaty of New Echota. This treaty validated the removal act.

Therefore, in 1838 the United States government forcibly removed more than 16,000 Cherokee, Choctaw and Creek Indians from their homelands in Tennessee,

Alabama, North Carolina, and Georgia. They were sent during the severe winter of 1838-1839 to Indian Territory in present day Oklahoma. Hundreds of Indians died during their trip west, and thousands perished from relocation. This tragic chapter in American history was known as the "Trail of Tears."

The Indian Tribes brought provisions to sustain them during the relocation. These included corn for planting in Oklahoma.

Some of the corn survived and was given the name 'White Eagle'. This corn is highly revered by descendants of the Trail of Tears March.

The former American Indian/ Alaskan Native Special Emphasis Program Manager, Debbie Henry, the American Indian Tribal Liaison for NRCS Georgia requested that the Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center (PMC) grow production seed of 'White Eagle' for education and remembrance of the Trail of Tears March to Oklahoma. 200 pounds of this corn was sent to her in the winter of 2009.

Henry will disseminate the corn to interested parties in the Southeastern United States.



A Trail of Tears ear of corn

JIMMY CARTER PMC RELEASING NEW CRIMSON CLOVER –AU SUNUP

The Jimmy Carter PMC in cooperation with Auburn University, Alabama Agricultural Experiment Stations and the Alabama Crop Improvement Association are in the process of releasing a new



A field of AU Sunup Crimson Clover at the PMC.

crimson clover for the Southeastern United States. 'AU Sunup' is an early blooming cultivar developed from 11 different naturalized southeastern crimson clover lines.

A plant breeding technique called recurrent restricted phenotypic selection or rrps was utilized to select superior germplasm from the original 11 crimson clover lines.

The new cultivar was tested at five experiment stations in Alabama and the Jimmy Carter PMC in Americus, Georgia. It blooms earlier than other crimson clover cultivars on the market.

Uses include conservation tillage, green manure, organic farming, winter cover crop and as a pollinator crop.