

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

and the

CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF 'MONTE FRIO' ROSE CLOVER

The United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service and the California Agricultural Experiment Station announce the naming and release of 'Monte Frio' rose clover, Trifolium hirtum All. It was developed and cooperatively released by the Soil Conservation Service, USDA and the California Agricultural Experiment Station, University of California, Davis, California.

'Monte Frio' rose clover is comprised of equal composites of seed collected from naturalized stands of rose clover in Hornbrook, Siskiyou County; Covello, Mendocino County and Viola, Shasta County (2 sites). Each site is located at elevations of 3,000 to 4,300 feet and naturalized stands have persisted for a minimum of 10 years. Selection has been made on the basis of survival, growth and reproduction at six major trial sites in northern California. It was compared to over 26 different commercial and experimental strains of subclover, rose clover, barrel medic, cupped clover, arrowleaf clover and 'Spreader' alfalfa and proved superior in withstanding the cold and dry conditions and was more persistent than the subclovers.

'Monte Frio' is a freely branching, cool-season, annual legume. Semi-erect growth varies from 20 to 60 cm (8 to 24 inches) depending on site and growing conditions. The leaves are alternate, hairy and flower heads are pink and globular. Flowering occurs in mid to late April and seed is ripe 4 to 6 weeks after flowering. Seed yields in small plots have averaged about 250 to 300 pounds per acre. A high percentage of the seed is hard and by fall only about 20-30% is ready to germinate. The seeds are round, yellow and weigh about 359,251 seeds per kilogram (163,296 seeds per pound).

'Monte Frio' was developed for use as forage on rangeland for cattle, sheep and deer; erosion control and low maintenance plant for disturbed sites; and wildlife food for dove, quail and other birds. It is more suitable for locations of higher elevations and colder temperatures than either 'Wilton' or 'Hykon' rose clovers. It is primarily adapted to MLRAs 5 and northern sections of 14, 15, 18, 21 and 22. It grows on loamy

sands, sandy loams, loams, and clay loams and needs a minimum of 20 cm (8 inches) of precipitation.

Four classes of seed (Breeder, Foundation, Registered, and Certified) of 'Monte Frio' rose clover are recognized. Seed multiplication would be for Breeder and Foundation seed to be maintained in cold, dry climates. These locations should be where 'Wilton' rose clover is unable to persist. This geographical limit should be as follows: north of 40 degrees latitude north and at or above 2,500 ft. elevation. Certified seed production at lower, warmer climates should be limited to one year. Breeder and Foundation seed will be maintained by the Lockeford Plant Materials Center, Lockeford, California and Foundation seed will be made available through the Foundation Seed and Plant Materials Service, University of California, Davis, California.



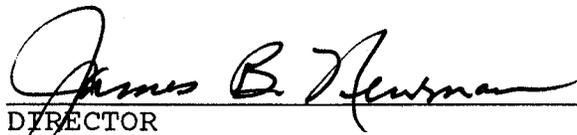
DIRECTOR
California Agricultural Experiment Station

9/22/91
Date



CALIFORNIA STATE CONSERVATIONIST
Soil Conservation Service

10/14/91
Date



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Ecological Sciences' Division
United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
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10-22-91
Date