

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

And

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS OF NORTHWESTERN
LOUISIANA AND EAST TEXAS

NOTICE OF RELEASE: HARRISON GERMPASM FLORIDA PASPALUM
SELECTED RELEASE

The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Northwestern Louisiana and East Texas announce the naming and release of Harrison Germplasm Florida selected release.

Harrison was developed at the East Texas Plant Materials Center (ETPMC), Nacogdoches, Texas. The accession number assigned to Harrison Florida paspalum is 9043874.

Harrison was originally collected from a native stand in Harrison Co., Texas by NRCS employees T. Paul Leggett and Ross Brown.

Forty seven (47) accessions of Florida paspalum, *Paspalum floridanum* Michx. were evaluated at the ETPMC in 1989-94. It was determined that five (5) accessions exhibited superior forage and seed production qualities. In 1994 accession 9043874 was selected as being superior to all other accessions being evaluated based on its dry matter yields, vigor, and seed quality data. Based on these desirable traits, accession 9043874 (Harrison) shows potential for wildlife food and cover and a component of native grass mixes for forage, mine reclamation and prairie restoration uses. For release, accession 9043874 was named Harrison in reference to its county of origin.

Florida paspalum, *Paspalum floridanum* is a native, warm season perennial bunchgrass. It is a robust form of Florida paspalum with hairless, chalky foliage. *P. floridanum* grows in wet areas of mostly open prairie or meadow sites or along streams and around lakes and ponds from southern New Jersey to central Florida west to Texas and north to Illinois.

Observations of plantings, data, and literature reviews indicate this plant poses no toxic threat to livestock, wildlife, or man. Its growth characteristic poses no threat of becoming a noxious weed or pest.

The East Texas Plant Materials Center will maintain a breeder block for seed production and distribution to growers.

Richard S. White

Date

Director, Ecological Science Division
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

John Burt

John Burt
State Conservationist
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Temple, TX

9-13-99
Date

Angus Mims

Angus Mims
Chairman, Board of Directors
East Texas Plant Materials Center

6-1-99
Date

William Foster

President
North East Texas Association of SWCDs

6-9-99
Date

Wayne Baker

Wayne Baker
President
Deep East Texas Association of SWCDs

6-25-99
Date

Jerry Holmes

Jerry Holmes
President
Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts

8-19-99
Date