UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

and the

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

and the

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY

and the

KENTUCKY DIVISION OF FORESTRY
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY

Notice of Release of 'Gobbler' Sawtooth Oak

The United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service; University of Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station; Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife; and the Division of Forestry announce the release of 'Gobbler' Sawtooth Oak (Quercus acutissima Carruthers). It was selected by the Soil Conservation Service, Plant Materials Center at Quicksand, Kentucky.

The plants growing at Quicksand are seedlings from a tree growing at the U.S. Plant Introduction Station, Glenn Dale, Maryland. This collection is identified at Glenn Dale by PI-168939, BN 14638 and the Quicksand PMC in 1966 as KY-97. The exact origin of the plants at Glenn Dale is unknown. However, the species is native to Eastern Asia from the Himalayan Mountains through China, Korea, and Japan. Twenty trees of PI-168939 were established at Ackerman, Mississippi in about 1962. Seed harvested from these trees has been referred to as the Ackerman strain but is not maintained as a commercial cultivar. Twenty-five one year old seedlings of Gobbler were first received by the Quicksand Plant Materials Center in 1966. Of the twenty-five plants originally received, only six mature trees remain. Seed produced by these plants have been used to establish many evaluation plantings.

Sawtooth oak is a large, round-headed tree to 70 feet tall, with handsome chestnut-like leaves, The acorns of Gobbler are smaller, compared to other sawtooth oak strains. They are 5/8 to 3/4 inches long by 1/2 to 5/8 inches wide, The acorns of other strains are up to 1 1/4 inches long. There are approximately 150 acorns per pound of Gobbler compared to other larger strains

which produce only 40 to 80 acorns per pound. Acorns are produced in about eight to eleven years after plantings if well maintained and planted on good sites. Nineteen year old trees growing at the Quicksand PMC on good bottomland soil have reached a height of 60 to 65 feet and produce, an average of 125 pounds of acorns per tree.

The primary use of Gobbler sawtooth oak is for wildlife food and cover. Acorns produced by sawtooth oak have been described as choice foods for wild turkey, squirrels, and white-tail deer. Acorns are also used by ruffed grouse, bobwhite quail, and deer browse. Sawtooth oak is also a handsome shade or specimen tree.

The known range of climatic adaptation of Gobbler extends from northern Florida west to eastern Texas and Oklahoma, and northward through Missouri to New York and into the southern New England states. It is probably adapted westward to the 30-inch rainfall belt. It is adapted to soils from sandy loam to clay loam. It does best on well drained and moderately well drained upland soils. It does not perform well on poorly drained soils. Gobbler makes adequate growth on reclaimed surface mined 1and where moisture conditions are favorable and the pH is ahove 5.0.

The seed orchard of six trees at the Quicksand Plant Materials Center, Quicksand, Kentucky 41383 will be maintained as the source of foundation seed.

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Director, Ecological Sciences Division — Date
U.S. Department-of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
Washington, D.C.

Randall W. Geimler — 11-27-85
State Conservationist — Date
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Charles E. Barnhart — 2/26/86
University of Kentucky — Date
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Dean R. Underwood — 11-22-5
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife — Date
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Donald A. Hamm — 12-12-85
Kentucky Division of Forestry — Date
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