

THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

AND

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

AND

NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

ANNOUNCE

THE RELEASE OF 'MANKOTA' RUSSIAN WILD RYE

Parent clones for 'MANKOTA' Russian wildrye [*Psathrostachys juncea* (Fischer) Nevski] were selected by personnel at the **USDA-ARS** Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory, Mandan, ND. MANKOTA has been performance tested as Mandan R1808 by USDA-ARS in North Dakota and by Agriculture Canada and the Manitoba Department of Agriculture in Canada. The USDA-SCS Plant Materials Center, Bismarck, **ND** is responsible for production of foundation seed. The name MANKOTA refers to Mandan, North Dakota, where the cultivar was developed. MANKOTA is being released jointly by USDA-ARS, USDA-SCS, and the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station.

MANKOTA, a six-clone synthetic, traces to a diploid ($2n = 2x = 14$) source population that consisted of 2300 individually spaced plants from 29 different cultivars, experimental strains, and plant introductions. Open-pollinated seed was harvested from 150 selected plants based on visual observation of plant vigor, heading date, lodging, seed yield, regrowth, and resistance to leaf-spot diseases, primarily *Septoria spraguei* Uecker et Krupinsky. Half-sib progenies of these 150 selections were compared with 'Vinall' and 'Swift' checks in replicated tests for coleoptile length (growth chamber), emergence from a 5 cm planting depth (greenhouse), stand establishment in the field, reaction to leaf-spot diseases, lodging, and forage and seed yields. Based on these half-sib progeny tests, three clones from PI314675, two from Mandan Bulk Population 34, and one from PI272136 were selected and intermated in isolation to produce the synthetic strain, Mandan R1808 (MANKOTA). Performance of Mandan R1808 was compared with other experimental strains and check cultivars in local and regional tests. Cultivar release of Mandan R1808 and the name MANKOTA were recommended September 13, 1990 by the Cultivar Review Committee of the North Dakota Interagency Research and Education Liaison Group.

Forage yields and apparent plant vigor of MANKOTA have been superior to current Russian wildrye cultivars adapted to the northern Great Plains. In regional tests, relative forage yields from 20 station-years at 5 locations averaged 100 and 85%, respectively, for MANKOTA and Swift. At Mandan, relative forage yields in preliminary tests averaged 100, 92, and 81%,

