

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

and

PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

and

CORNELL UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF 'TIOGA' DEERTONGUE

The United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service; the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station; and the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station announce the release of Tioga deertongue (Panicum clandestinum L.). It was developed at the SCS Plant Materials Center, Big Flats, New York.

Tioga is a composite of twenty accessions of deertongue. The twenty were selected for seeding vigor as expressed in seedling emergence, rapidity of seedling development, growth habit, general plant vigor, and freedom from any serious disease and insect damage. Equal amounts of pure live seed from each accession were blended in 1969 to form the breeder seed,

Deertongue is a perennial warm-season grass native to eastern United States and southeast Canada. Its natural distribution is Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Maine, south to Florida and Texas, and west to Kansas. The vernal culms of deertongue normally reach heights of one to three feet. The autumnal culms are a very leafy rosette, four to six inches in height. Two seed crops are produced annually; an early crop on an open terminal panicle, and a latter crop on a panicle enclosed in the swollen leaf sheath. Most of the early crop is sterile and shatters easily. An abundance of seed is produced in the sheath. The flowers in the sheath are self-pollinated.

Various deertongue accessions have been under evaluation by the SCS since 1958. Plantings have been made on surface mine spoil since 1962. Early plantings showed deertongue to have a high degree of tolerance to low pH. Subsequent evaluations with Tioga verified this observation. Although growth is suppressed, Tioga has performed

satisfactorily when the pH was 4.0 or above. Deertongue is quite tolerant of aluminum, producing roots in concentrations of 80-100 ppm in tests at The Pennsylvania State University. Deertongue is a pioneer plant on disturbed sites of low fertility such as mine spoil, gravel pits and sandy roadbanks.

Breeder seed of Tioga will be maintained by the Soil Conservation Service Plant Materials Center, Big Flats, New York. Foundation seed will be available in 1975 and very limited quantities of certified seed may be available in 1977.

James G. Miller

Director, Plant Sciences Division
United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
Washington, D.C.

July 6, 1976

Date

Benny Martin

State Conservationist
United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
Washington, D.C.

Dec. 10, 1975

Date

Robert L. Hilliard

State Conservationist
United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
Syracuse, New York

Dec. 22, 1975

Date

Walter J. Thomas

Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania

Dec. 15, 1975

Date

W. L. Vandemark

Cornell University Agricultural Experiment
Station
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York

Jun 27/76

Date