

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

and

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF

AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES,

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Notice of Germ Plasm Release of PI-430240 switchgrass

The United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service and New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University announce the germ plasm release of PI-430240 switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum* L.). It was developed at the Soil Conservation Service Plant Materials Center, Big Flats, New York.

PI-430240 switchgrass is a northeast ecotype selected for its strong, coarse, upright stems for use as a wildlife conservation plant. Original weed was collected by Frank Glover, SCS Plant Materials Technician, near St. Mary's, West Virginia in 1956. It was assigned the number NY-1388 by the Big Flats Plant Materials Center. Reselection from two generations of NY-1388 seedlings were made for leafiness, early maturity and coarse upright stems. The progeny of this was first assigned NY-4006 and now is in the SCS plant materials data system as PI-430240.

In PMC studies at Cape May Court House, NJ, Quicksand, KY and Big Flat, NY resistance to lodging of PI-430240 is evident after the first growing season. PI-430240 continues to resist lodging better than 'Blackwell' in successive years. The culms of PI-430240 are more resilient than

those of Blackwell and return to an upright form after the snowmelts, whereas Blackwell is permanently lodged.

PI-430240 is consistently slower to emerge after seeding, has lower seedling vigor and is slower growing the first year than is Blackwell. These factors contribute to the difficulty of obtaining good stands in field plantings. The growth of PI-430240 lags behind Blackwell for the first and second growing season. The third season, PI-430240 is slightly taller than Blackwell.

Seed stocks are maintained by the Big Flats Plant Materials Center, USDA, SCS. Seed will be provided interested people upon receipt of a written request and agreement to make appropriate recognition of its source a matter of open record when this germ plasm contributes to the development of a new cultivar or hybrid. If material is increased directly, it must be with the consent of both SCS and Cornell University, Address requests to USDA-Soil Conservation Service, Big Flats Plant Materials Center, Big Flats, NY 14814.

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