

REGISTRATION OF HOLT INDIANGRASS¹

(Reg. No. 16)

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'Holt' indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans* (L.) Nash) was released in 1960 by the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station in cooperation with the Crops Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Holt has been grown at the Experiment Station since 1942. The variety was developed by selection among native prairie ecotypes of the sandhills and adjacent areas in the Elkhorn Valley of Holt County in Northeastern Nebraska.

Holt is typical of the perennial, warm-season indiangrass ecotypes of North-central and Northeastern Nebraska. Plants, 0.3 to 0.9 m (1 to 3 ft.) in height produce numerous dark green leaves and moderately early-maturing 1.5 to 1.8 m (5 to 6 ft.) tall flowering culms with constricted brown panicles. A good regrowth after clipping or grazing occurs if soil moisture and fertility are adequate. Holt is superior to other early-maturing strains of Indiangrass in both forage and seed production. It is recommended throughout the Nebraska sandhills and adjacent areas of finer textured soils for conservation and forage production plantings. The variety is used either in pure stands or in mixtures with other relatively early-maturing varieties of warm-season prairie grasses. Late-maturing varieties may produce more total forage.

Holt is well suited for seed production in the relatively short seasons of North-central and Northeastern Nebraska.

Three classes of seed of Holt are recognized. The Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station maintains breeder seed and produces foundation seed grown from breeder seed. Certified seed is the market class used for conservation and forage production plantings and is grown only from foundation seed.

¹Registered by the Crop Science Society of America. Received March 14, 1968. Cooperative investigations of the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station and the Crops Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Published with the approval of the Director as Paper No. 2207, Journal Series, Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station.

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