UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
BIG FLATS, NEW YORK

AND

ALBANY PINE BUSH PRESERVE COMMISSION
ALBANY, NEW YORK

AND

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
EASTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER
TROY, NEW YORK

AND

NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK

The Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, The Nature Conservancy, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, announce the release of a source-identified ecotype of wild lupine (Lupinus perennis L.).

As a source identified release, this plant will be referred to as Glacial Lake Albany Germplasm wild lupine, to document its original location. It has been assigned the NRCS accession number, 9051775.

This alternative release procedure is justified because there is an immediate need for a source of local ecotype of wild lupine. Plant material of this specific ecotype is needed for ecosystem and endangered species habitat restoration in the Pine Barrens of Glacial Lake Albany. The inland pitch pine – scrub oak barrens of Glacial Lake Albany are a globally rare ecosystem and provide habitat for 20 rare species, including the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly (Lycaeides melissa samuelis). The potential for immediate use is high and the commercial potential beyond Glacial Lake Albany is probably high.

Collection Site Information: Stands are located within Glacial Lake Albany, from Albany, New York to Glens Falls, New York, and generally within Albany Pine Bush Preserve, just west of Albany, New York. The elevation within the Pine Barrens is approximately 300 feet, containing a savanna-like ecosystem with sandy soils wind-swept into dunes, following the last glacial period. Soils are classified as Colonie loamy-fine sand, with a mean annual precipitation of 36.17 inches per year. This is plant hardiness zone 5. Very little variability was observed within stands of wild lupine,

therefore, any collection of wild lupine within Glacial Lake Albany would be considered a constituent of this source-identified release.

Ecotype Description: Wild lupine is a perennial plant in the pea family, with showy blue (occasionally white or pink) upright spikes of pea-like flowers. Each leaf is palmately compound, divided into about eight narrow light green leaflets. It grows to a height of two feet, blooming in May and June. Being a legume, it fixes nitrogen in the soil, benefiting all nearby growth. Wild lupine has a very large taproot and grows well on dry, well-drained, infertile soils.

Environmental Impact Assessment: Glacial Lake Albany Germplasm wild lupine is a collection of a naturally occurring germplasm and has not been purposefully altered. An assessment of this native plant concludes that it is not invasive, nor does it have any potential to become invasive.

Anticipated Conservation Use: The potential use of Glacial Lake Albany Germplasm wild lupine is for endangered species habitat restoration and general improvement of the pitch pine-scrub oak barrens of Glacial Lake Albany. The caterpillars of the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly, as well as the larvae of persius duskywing and frosted elfin feed exclusively on the stems and leaves of wild lupine. The Glacial Lake Albany Germplasm can be also planted by homeowners in their landscape and can be utilized in restoration projects for increasing plant diversity. Wild lupine flowers provide nectar for butterflies, and being drought tolerant would be ideal for restoration seedings on drier sites, meadows and roadsides.

Potential Area of Adaptation: Wild lupine is commonly found on sites with dry soils in clearings or edges of fields. The natural range of wild lupine is Minnesota, New York and southern Maine south.

Availability of Plant Materials: Glacial Lake Albany germplasm wild lupine, can be obtained by contacting Don Shardlow, Manager, New York Seed Improvement Project, P.O. Box 218, Ithaca, NY, 14851 (607-255-9869).

References: Newcomb, L. 1977. Newcomb's Wildflower Guide. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, MA.

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Signatures for release of

Glacial Lake Albany Germplasm wild lupine (Lupinus perennis L.)

Richard J. White
for Director of Ecological Sciences Division
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Washington, DC

11/3/00
Date

Melvin Womack, Acting
Richard Swenson
State Conservationist
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Syracuse, New York

10/16/00
Date

Willie Janeway
Willie Janeway
Executive Director
Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission
Albany, New York

3/30/2000
Date

Kathy Moser
Kathy Moser
Executive Director
The Nature Conservancy
Eastern New York Chapter
Troy, New York

3/30/00
Date

Kurtis O'Brien
New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation
Albany, New York

4/5/00
Date