

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

LOCKEFORD CALIFORNIA

Latitude: 37° 30' 00"

Longitude: 121° 32' 00"

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF PURPLE NEEDLEGRASS FOR  
MAJOR LAND RESOURCE AREA 15d  
SELECTED CLASS OF NATURAL GERMPLASM

LK 315d Germplasm

The Natural Resources Conservation Service announces the release of a selected ecotype of purple needlegrass, *Nassella pulchra*, for Major Land Resource area (MLRA) 15d. This release will be identified as LK 315d Germplasm to document the Lockeford Plant Materials Center as the releasing agency and the MLRA for which the release is best suited.

As the demand for native seed has grown, so has the demand for ecotypic native seed. Though many native species may be suited for field cultivation and may be excellent candidates for improvement of plant performance through breeding efforts, the seed of a majority of species will continue to be collected from wildland populations. Because of the demand for native seed, it has become important to have seed certification to ensure genetic identity and origin. In order to meet this need a national organization, The Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) has developed a certification program to address this need, The Pre-Germplasm Certification Standards.

Species .....	<i>Nassella pulchra</i> (A. Hitchc.) Barkworth <i>Stipa pulchra</i> A. Hitchc.
Common Name .....	Purple Needlegrass
Plant Symbol .....	NAPU4
Accession Number .....	9063706

**ORIGIN:** Alameda County, California; Mines Rd.; Boy Scout Camp (Rancho Los Mochos). Township 4S Range 4E Section 13. Elevation is approximately 2056 feet. Mean annual precipitation is 14-35 inches. Mean annual temperature is 58-63 degrees F.

**Site Description:** The soils found in the area of original collection are Los Gatos-Los Oso Complex (LpF2). The complex is 40 percent Los Gatos loam, 40 percent Los Osos silty clay loam, and 20 percent Gaviota rocky sandy loam. Vegetation found on this complex is: wild oat, soft chess, American deervetch, carex, ripgut brome, red brome, burclover, blue oak, California live oak, California buckeye, annual lupine, filaree, purple needlegrass, blue wildrye, bluegrass, and fescue.

The Los Gatos soil depth is 46 inches with an average water holding capacity (AWC) of 6.36 inches. Various slopes, 5 to 75 percent.

The Los Oso soil depth is 49 inches with an average water holding capacity (AWC) of 5.7 inches. Various slopes, 5 to 75 percent.

**Anticipated Conservation Use:** Restoration, critical area plantings, cover crop, and wildlife habitat.

**Availability of Plant Materials:** Foundation seed will be maintained by the Lockeford Plant Materials Center, P.O. Box 68, Lockeford, California, 95237. Access to the property of original collection is not available.

