Gruening was developed for use in erosion control, recla-
mation, and restoration in arctic, subarctic, and boreal re-

disons. It has proven to be superior to Kentucky bluegrass (Po

P. pratensis L.) in reclamation trials and is expected to

replant Kentucky bluegrass cultivars in land-

doration programs in Alaska.

No other cultivars of alpine bluegrass have been identified

use in species trials. As far as the Alaska Plant Materials

Gruening is the first named cultivar

release of alpine bluegrass. Gruening will be recognized as

breeder, foundation, registered, and certified seed classes.

Breeder and foundation seed will be maintained by the Alas-

ka Plant Materials Center. Registered and certified produc-

will be assigned to the Alaska Seed Growers, Inc.

Stoney J. Wright* (3)

References and Notes


3. Alaska Plant Materials Ctr., Div. of Agric., Alaska Dep. of Natural Re-
sources, HC 02 Box 7440, Palmer, AK 99645. Registration by CSSA. Ac-


REGISTRATION OF ‘CAIGGLUK’

TILESY SAGEBRUSH

‘CAIGGLUK’ TILESY SAGEBRUSH (Artemisia tilesii Ledeb.) (Reg. no. CV-3, PI 540424) was selected by the Alaska Plant Materials Center, Division of Agriculture, Alaska Depart-

ment of Natural Resources, and released in December 1989 as a reclamation and erosion control species. Caiggluk (pro-
nounced Chai-thluk; it is the Yupik Eskimo word for tilesy sagebrush) was originally collected from a single plant near Clam Gulch, AK, in 1974.

Tilesy sagebrush is a nonwoody, perennial sagebrush. This herbaceous species forms short, stout rhizomes and is usually

found growing on sandy or gravelly soils. Tilesy sage is in-
digenous through most of Alaska and eastward to Hudson Bay in Canada. The species is also found south to Oregon and Montana (1).

Parent material used to develop Caiggluk, has been tested

and increased at the Alaska Plant Materials Center since

1976. Off-site regional testing was started in 1981. Testing

continued through 1989 with a total of 24 sites. The first

one-acre seed increase planting (0.405 ha) occurred in 1987.

Caiggluk was developed to enhance reclamation activity in Alaska. It is the first native broadleaf herbaceous species

intended for reclamation to be placed in large-scale com-

mercial production in Alaska. The addition of Caiggluk in

reclamation seedings will aid in achieving required di-

versity standards.

This relatively tall broadleaf species will also impart a

more natural appearance to reclamation seedings by dis-

rupting the homogenous appearance of traditional grass

seedings. Other potential uses for Caiggluk tilesy sagebrush

have not been tested.

Results from off-site evaluations, species characteristics, and

the natural range of tilesy sagebrush indicate that Caig-

gluk should perform well throughout mainland Alaska south of the Brooks Range, with the exception of southeast Alaska.

The cultivar has performed well in Kodiak, Adak, and She-

mya, suggesting that the cultivar would be acceptable as a

reclamation or revegetation species in coastal regions.

Within its range of adaptation, Caiggluk tilesy sagebrush

tends to perform best on mineral soils, although it provides

satisfactory results on organic soils. Canadian research with A. tilesii indicates that it tolerates a broad pH spectrum (pH 2–9). Research also suggests that the species has a high degree of tolerance to Zn, Cd, Pb, Cu, Ni, and As (phytotoxic metals sometimes associated with mine spoil [2]).

In general, seed production and processing of Caiggluk tilesy sagebrush can be accomplished with standard har-

testing and cleaning equipment. Based on harvests at the

Plant Materials Center, a seed producer should expect 112

kg of clean seed per hectare. It is suggested that production

fields be planted in rows 1 m apart. A recommended planting

rate for seed production purposes is 1.6 to 2.2 kg ha⁻¹.

Caiggluk is relatively late maturing. Seed grown at Palmer,

AK, has usually matured in mid-September. This late matu-

ration date often subjects the crop to heavy seasonal rains

and high winds. Wind can be a major problem in Caiggluk production, because the seed shatters easily.

Caiggluk tilesy sagebrush seed will be recognized in breeder-

foundation, registered, and certified seed classes. Breeder

foundation and seed will be grown and supplied by the

Alaska Plant Materials Center. Foundation and certified seed will be available to seed growers through the Alaska Seed Growers, Inc.

Stoney J. Wright* (3)

References and Notes


2. Hutchinson, T.C., and A.L. Koja. 1979. Selection and use of multiple-

metal tolerant native grasses for revegetation of mine tailings. pp. 191–

197. In Int. Conf. Management and control of heavy metals in the envi-


3. Alaska Plant Materials Ctr., Div. of Agric., Alaska Dep. of Natural Re-
sources, HC 02 Box 7440, Palmer, AK 99645. Registration by CSSA. Ac-

Published in Crop Sci. 31:1380 (1991).

REGISTRATION OF ‘EGAN’

AMERICAN SLOUGHGRASS

‘EGAN’ AMERICAN SLOUGHGRASS (Beckmannia syzigachne [Steud.] Fern.) (Reg. no. CV-143, PI 540423) was developed and released by the Alaska Plant Materials Center, Division of Agriculture, Alaska Department of Natural Resources. It was released by the Center in March 1986 to provide a suitable cultivar for wetland reclamation. Egan was developed

from seed collected from a single plant growing in roadfill

north of Fairbanks, AK, in 1973. The cultivar name Egan was selected in honor of William A. Egan, the first and fourth governor of the State of Alaska, who served from 1959 to


American sloughgrass is usually described as an annual bunchgrass found on flooded or seasonally saturated soils; Egan, however, is a perennial. The cultivar can be expected to produce adequate amounts of seed when grown for commercial seed for 4 to 5 yr.

Egan was evaluated by the Alaska Plant Materials Center

in three initial screenings between 1974 and 1983. Starting in 1980, advanced testing of Egan was done at 26 sites throughout Alaska and in the Yukon Territories of Canada. Egan was selected for its potential in wetland reclamation and waterfowl habitat enhancement. In trials on wet soil, Egan outperformed all other tested accessions and cultivars.