

Division of Agriculture  
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**POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR RELEASE OF PLANT MATERIALS**  
**UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE**  
**ARKANSAS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION**

**INTRODUCTION**

The mission of the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, hereinafter referred to as AAES, includes the discovery and development of superior plant germplasm and varieties with immediate or potential economic importance to Arkansas. Superior materials are traditionally obtained through the respective procedures of 1) amassing and testing germplasm accessions and 2) genetic manipulation via breeding and selection, mutagenesis and/or the production of transgenic (genetically engineered) plants. As improved plant materials are discovered or developed, the policy of the AAES is to make these available to the general public as expeditiously as is feasible. Policies that govern discoveries from publicly supported research should assure protection of the public interest as well as recognize the intellectual input in the research and discovery process. This document establishes uniform policies and procedures for release of plant materials by the AAES for this purpose.

Policies and procedures presented herein are intended to be consistent with the guidelines and responsibilities developed by the University of Arkansas, Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP) of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC), the Plant Variety Protection Act (PL 91-577), the Plant Patent Act as amended the Federal Seed Act as amended (Title V), the National Institute of Health Guidelines for Recombinant DNA Research (Appendix P) and APHIS guidelines (7 CFR 330-340) regarding use and release of plant materials. Policies and procedures established herein are intended to facilitate the orderly and equitable release of plant materials while allowing necessary flexibility in their application to individual species or varieties under varying circumstances.

**DEFINITIONS OF CLASSES OF RELEASED PLANT MATERIALS**

All plant materials suitable for commercial production and meeting Federal Seed Act requirements are referred to, herein, as “variety(ies).” The terms “variety” and “cultivar” are considered to be synonyms. Inbred lines or other “elite” germplasm used directly in production of commercial hybrid or synthetic varieties are considered as varieties as far as release is concerned.

Plant material possessing special genetic characteristics of immediate or potential value in public or private breeding and/or research programs may be released as “germplasm.” Germplasm encompasses seed and vegetatively propagated plants, pollen, cell and tissue culture lines, DNA constructs, plasmids or other vectors and transgenic plants or breeding lines produced through recombinant DNA and plant transformation and regeneration techniques.

**CRITERIA FOR RELEASE OF PLANT MATERIALS**

To be eligible for release, a variety must be clearly superior to existing varieties in one or more important characteristics or a combination of characteristics. Fulfillment of these criteria will be judged on the basis of the description of the proposed variety and performance data. Eligibility for release of germplasm will likewise be contingent on demonstrated or potential usefulness by virtue of possession of one or more genetic characteristics not found in other available germplasm of the same species or genetic background.

## CONDITIONS OF OWNERSHIP OF PLANT MATERIAL

The AAES often cooperates with other state experiment stations, with the USDA and with other public and private institutions in plant improvement research. The AAES will cooperate with such agencies in the release of plant materials having demonstrated merit **when there has been substantive mutual effort in the development and/or testing of the material**. Contributions by cooperating agencies in the development and/or testing of a variety or germplasm that do not warrant co-release by those agencies may be acknowledged in the release document.

Ownership of a variety or germplasm accrues to the individual(s), institution(s), agency(ies) and/or company(ies) developing or discovering the material and confers specific legal rights. In the case of plant materials originated or developed by employees of the AAES (any person whose salary is paid by or through AAES), ownership is accrued to the AAES.

Release of a variety or germplasm is independent of ownership of the material to the extent that an entity can jointly sponsor such release without being an owner of the material. Consequently, joint release of plant material by two or more entities does not automatically confer co-ownership on all participants in the release. For certain kinds of joint releases (e.g., general unrestricted), ownership may not necessarily merit specific address. When necessary (e.g., restricted releases) legal ownership of plant materials jointly released by the AAES and one or more cooperators will be determined on a case-by-case basis and stipulated by mutual memorandum of agreement. In those cases requiring specifications of ownership, the memorandum of agreement will specify the extent of ownership by each party, but the official release document shall only state which of the participant parties in the release are joint owners. The AAES, in the public interest, may establish additional legal ownership agreements with cooperators.

## RELEASE PROCEDURES

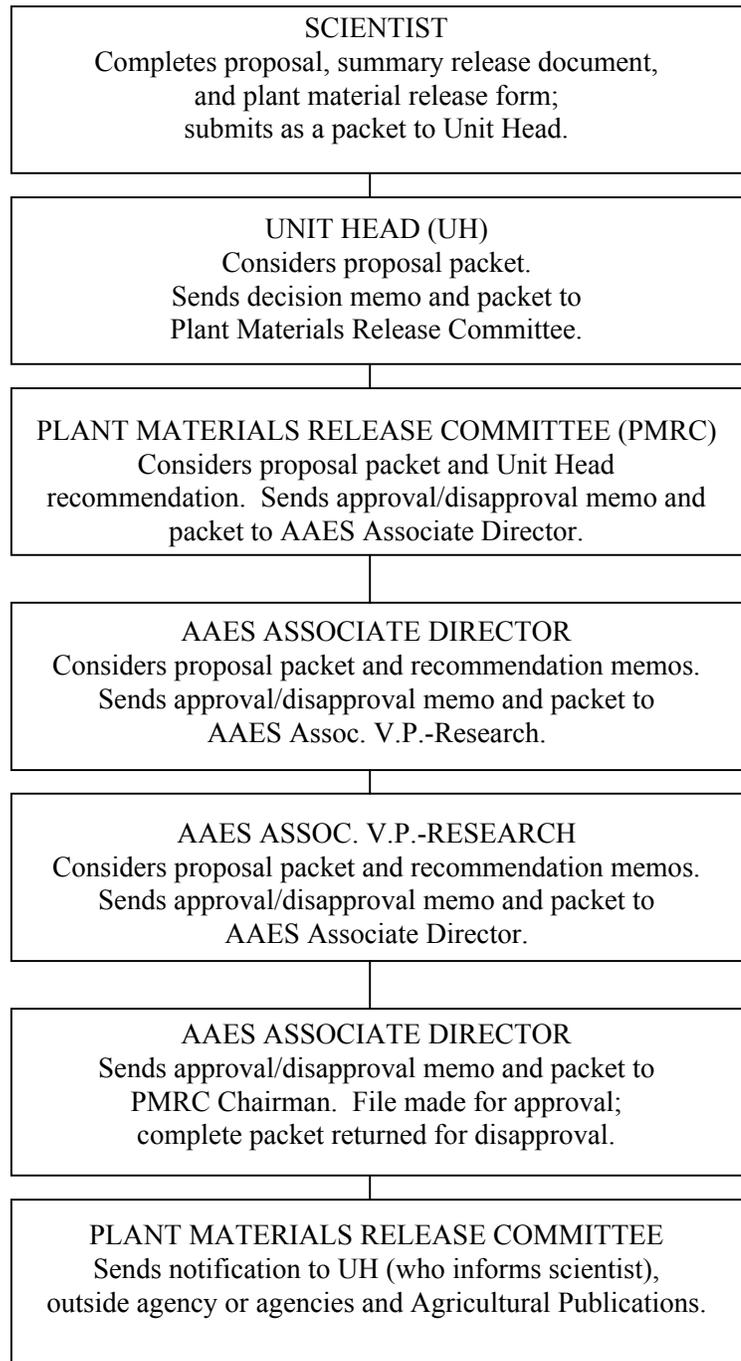
The originator or developer of new plant material must apply for release to the Associate Vice President-Research, AAES, through the sponsoring unit by submitting a Plant Materials Release Form (Attachment 1), a proposal detailing the description and merits of the material and a summary release document. The various steps associated with evaluation and approval of a release request are given in Fig.1.

### Release Proposal

The release proposal should contain the following information:

1. The experimental designation, kind and scientific name of the material.
2. A description of the origin of the plant material and the procedures used in its development.
3. A description of the morphological, physiological, genetic and/or performance features that distinguish the material. Performance data from scientific tests subjected to appropriate statistical analysis(es) sufficient to demonstrate to a reasonable degree of certainty the usefulness and superiority of the material relative to standard varieties or available materials for the specified area of adaptation and probable use. For varieties, the comparisons should be with the leading commercial varieties.
4. Summary justification for release.
5. For varieties, an indication of the probable area and conditions of adaptation, the variety(ies) it is intended to replace and any weaknesses that might limit its usefulness.
6. For germplasm, an indication of the useful trait(s) and potential contribution to breeding and scientific investigation.
7. Availability status of seed, plant or genetic material.
8. Generations of increase for varieties. A statement should indicate the pedigreed classes of increase permitted for the material. Pedigreed classes are Breeder, Foundation, Registered and Certified as defined by the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies. For perennial crops, the breeder may also stipulate the number of years a class of propagating stock may be produced from a field.
9. Suggested names.

**Fig. 1. Flow chart of steps in the approval process for release of plant materials.**



10. Proposed method of release with justification.
11. Proposed licensing procedure if applicable.

### Summary Release Document

In addition to the Plant Materials Release Form and detailed release proposal, the originator should submit a summary release document for signature by the Associate Vice President-Research and, in the case of joint releases, by the appropriate officer of other cooperating entities. The release document summarizes the description, origin and performance characteristics of the plant material. Frequently it serves as the “press release” document.

## METHODS OF RELEASE

The decision to release plant material mandates a second decision on the method of release. The general policy of the AAES is to release materials in a manner most likely to ensure their equitable and ample availability for Arkansas Agriculture and to the general public. Following this basic policy, the AAES will release plant material through one of the following methods chosen by the Associate Vice President-Research upon the advice of principals (scientists, agencies) involved in the release and the concurrence of the PMRC:

**1. Unrestricted Public Release without Protection Certificate.**

Seed or vegetative propagules of a new variety are made available to the general public without limitation on use or sale of propagating material. Initial increase of propagating stock is under the auspices of the AAES, but certification is voluntary. A new variety **may** be registered with the Plant Variety Protection Office without applying for a Plant Variety Protection Certificate (PVPC) as a means of advertising and verifying its release and as an aid in preventing others from unjustly obtaining a PVPC on the variety. Germplasm may be released by this method, usually with the proviso that a small amount of propagating material will be made available to *bona fide* researchers upon written request and agreement to give proper credit for its use. A fee may be levied to recover cost of production, handling and shipping.

**2. Exclusive Rights Waived - Certification Not Required.**

A PVPC is obtained without the proviso that seed can be sold by variety name only as a class of certified seed. The AAES declares the variety to be a public release, with waiver of exclusive rights.

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**4. Exclusive Rights Retained - Certification Not Required.**

A PVPC is obtained without the proviso that seed can be sold by variety name only as a class of certified seed. The AAES retains or assigns to agent(s) or licensee(s) exclusive rights to use for a specified period of time, with or without remuneration.

**5. Exclusive Rights Retained - Certification Required.**

A PVPC is obtained with the proviso that seed can be sold by variety name only as a class of certified seed. The AAES retains or assigns to agent(s) or licensee(s) exclusive rights to use for a specified period of time, with or without remuneration.

**6. Exclusive Rights Retained - Plant Patent.**

A plant patent is obtained for a vegetatively propagated variety or germplasm. The AAES retains or assigns to agent(s) or licensee(s) exclusive or nonexclusive rights to use for a specified period of time, with or without remuneration.

**7. Exclusive Rights Retained - Utility Patent.**

A utility patent is obtained for a vegetatively or sexually reproduced variety or germplasm. The AAES retains or assigns to agent(s) or licensee(s) exclusive rights to use for a specified period of time, with or without remuneration.

## NOTICE OF RELEASE

### AAES Release

Upon release of plant material, or at a designated time thereafter, appropriate public announcement will be made. This will normally be done through the Experiment Station's Agricultural Publications office. News releases of a new variety should coincide with the availability of reasonable amounts of propagating stock. In some instances, notice of release of a variety or germplasm may be made to selected public and private agencies, institutions or organizations well in advance of a public news release. In other instances, particularly for exclusive licenses, the parties may agree that no general news release will be made by the AAES.

### Cooperative Releases

When the AAES cooperates with other agencies, institutions or organizations in the release of plant materials, the date of public announcement of the release is to be agreed upon by all parties.

Upon administrative approval of release of a new variety or germplasm, it is the policy of the AAES to register or list the material with the appropriate authority and to deposit seed or plant material with the appropriate germplasm bank. Crop varieties and germplasm are registered with the Crop Science Society of America. Horticultural varieties and germplasm are listed with the American Society for Horticultural Science. Instructions are available from the respective Societies.

## VARIETY REVIEW BOARDS

Some crops have National Variety Review Boards, usually established by scientific working groups, to review proposals for new variety releases. Submission of release proposal information to such Boards is encouraged, but not mandatory. Submission of information to the review boards should follow AAES approval, but precede final release.

## EXCLUSIVE RELEASES

Exclusive release and exclusive or partially exclusive licenses may be granted to one or more private companies, grower organizations or other *bona fide* organizations to use protected varieties and germplasm when one or more of the following provisions exist:

1. The interests of the University, the AAES and the public will best be served by the proposed license, in view of the applicant's intentions, plans and ability to produce and distribute adequate propagating stock or otherwise use the plant material on a continuing basis.
2. Adequate certified propagating stock is not likely to be achieved expeditiously on a continuing basis under any nonexclusive license that has been granted, or that may be granted, to produce and distribute propagating stock.
3. Exclusive, or partially exclusive, licensing is a reasonable and necessary incentive to secure the investment of risk capital and expenditures to produce and distribute adequate propagating stock on a continuing basis.
4. The proposed terms and scope of exclusivity are not greater than reasonably necessary to provide the incentive for producing and distributing adequate propagating stock on a continuing basis.

A public hearing may be held to allow comment on a proposed exclusive release when it is judged to be in the public interest. Comments received during such a hearing will be considered in determining if exclusive release of a plant material is justified. When the decision is made to proceed with exclusive release, the decision as to who is granted the rights to the material will be made by Associate Vice President for Agriculture-Research. In determining the organization to be granted exclusive rights, the company's reputation and ability to produce and market the material will be considered in addition to competitive financial arrangements (see Attachments 2 and 3).

## **PVPA OR PATENT PROTECTION**

Policy allows flexibility in applying for a PVPC under the Plant Variety Protection Act, specifying when an approved variety is to be sold by variety name only as a class of certified seed and retaining or waiving exclusive rights. Selection of one or more of the previously described alternatives under the act will be made on a case-by-case basis. Fees required for processing applications for PVPC's will be paid by the Office of the Associate Vice President-Research with reimbursement from funds generated by the variety.

The application for a PVPC will ordinarily be prepared by the originating scientist(s) in cooperation with the AAES Associate Vice President-Research for submission to the USDA Plant Variety Protection Office. The applicant will be the AAES with the AAES Associate Vice President-Research as its agent.

The AAES will enlist the provisions of the PVPA to prevent any individual or organization, other than a designated agent of the station, from obtaining a variety or germplasm developed and released by the Station. These provisions include the placement of statements such as "Unauthorized Propagation Prohibited-U.S. Variety Protection Applied For Specifying That Seed of This Variety Is To Be Sold By Variety Name Only as a Class of Certified Seed" or "Propagation Prohibited - Application Contemplated for U.S. Plant Variety Protection Certificate" or "For Testing Only - Application for Plant Variety Protection Certificate Contemplated" or similar notices on tags or labels of lots of pedigreed seed.

Plant material inventions that are candidates for protection under the Plant Patent Act will be considered by the University Patent Committee (UPC) in accordance with general university policy and procedures for patents. Information regarding a patent candidate plant material invention must be submitted to the UPC in accordance with the University Patent Policy. If the University decides to pursue a patent, the developer ("inventor") shall assign all rights, title and interest in the invention to the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas.

The requirements for patent protection are relatively complex and require careful consideration prior to the filing of an application. Basically, both plant and utility patents must satisfy the standards of "novelty," "utility" and "nonobviousness." "Novelty" means that patenting of the invention is not prohibited by designated types of prior art or statutory bars. "Utility" simply means that the invention is useful. "Nonobviousness" is a more subjective measure relating to whether another person, working with the relevant technology and possessing all of the information generally known about the technology by those of ordinary skill, would have seen the invention as an obvious step to take. Additionally, plant patents require the variety or germplasm to be distinctive from existing materials via observable, readily reproducible characteristics.

Plant patents can be acquired by an individual who invents or discovers a new variety and asexually reproduces it. Unlike utility patents, plant patents can be acquired for a variety that was not originally bred or cultivated by the applicant. It is the combination of discovering/developing a new variety and asexually reproducing it that constitutes the act of invention. Patentable forms include, without limitation, cultivated mutants, hybrids, or other newly found plant types. Tuber propagated plants and plants found in an uncultivated state are explicitly excluded from plant patent protection. Three steps are required for completing an invention for the purpose of a plant patent application: 1) development and/or discovery of a new variety; 2) identification of the characteristics of the variety that make it new and distinct; and 3) asexual reproduction of the variety.

A utility patent provides the applicant with the opportunity to claim multiple parts of the plant, including genomes, DNA constructs, cells and cell cultures and fully differentiated plants. Proving asexual reproduction from the original plant is not a prerequisite to establishing infringement of a utility patent. Utility patents provide protection against unauthorized sexual or asexual reproduction. The greatest impediment to acquiring utility patents on new plant materials is the statutory prohibition on patenting "products of nature." Plant patent statutes prohibit the granting of a utility patent for a plant discovered as a product of nature. It must be demonstrated as being an invention of "nonobvious" intellectual achievement.

When plant or utility patents are used to protect plant materials, the AAES will normally follow ESCOP guidelines in granting variances relating to research use and dominance rights of the materials. Utility patents do not automatically allow for the use of patented material in research or plant improvement programs without approval or compensation to the patent holder. The dominance requirements stipulated in the law provide that holders of patents on marketed materials derived from an earlier patent be required to compensate the holder of the earlier patent for the full 17 years of the patent.

Plant and utility patents are in effect for 17 years. A PVP Certificate is effective for 18 years.

## **ROYALTIES AND REVENUES**

All royalties and revenues collected from licenses for plant materials developed by AAES will accrue to the AAES. The Associate Vice President for Agriculture-Research will determine any distribution of income, after costs for licensing, patenting, exclusive release and other costs have been defrayed, to AAES units. Royalties and revenues collected from the marketing of materials deemed to be intellectual property shall be distributed according to University Patent Policy and Procedures.

## **INCREASE AND MAINTENANCE OF MATERIALS**

When plant material is identified as warranting release, propagating stock is increased by the originator in sufficient quantity to meet demand. For commercial varieties, the Breeder stock will be increased to the volume necessary to meet demands either directly or through the Foundation Seed program. Breeder stock of a variety should be maintained as long as there is significant public use of the variety. When a variety's public use is judged to be inadequate to warrant continued maintenance, the station will notify appropriate agencies of its intent to discontinue maintenance.

It is the responsibility of the AAES to produce and maintain an adequate quantity of propagating stock to ensure a variety's effective release and full utilization where appropriate. The AAES will provide the maintenance of an adequate supply of propagating stock of all plant varieties released under its jurisdiction for which there is substantive demand. New varieties may be entered into the Arkansas Seed Certification Program and thereby into the Arkansas Seed Council program by meeting one or more of the following provisions:

1. Release by the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station.
2. Favorable review of the appropriate National Variety Review Board.
3. Endorsement by a Member Agency of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA).
4. Certification by the Plant Variety Protection Office (subject to the Arkansas Seed Certification Standards and Rules).

Acceptance of a variety into the Arkansas Seed Certification Program will be at the discretion of the Associate Vice President-Research, AAES, with the advice of the Director of the Arkansas Crop Variety Improvement Program and the Arkansas Seed Council. Foundation propagating stocks will then be produced, processed and allocated under regulations established for the Foundation Class of a respective crop established by the Arkansas Seed Council. Foundation propagating stocks will be sold to approved producers at a price established by the Arkansas Seed Council. Allocation of Foundation Stock of public varieties will be on an equitable basis to approved producers subject to limitation of availability.

## **EXCHANGING, USING AND EVALUATING EXPERIMENTAL PLANT MATERIALS**

The policy of the AAES is to operate in an open, free environment consistent with its basic charter of service to the general public. The free exchange of plant germplasm among public and private institutions and the public disclosure of research information are hallmarks of the American Land Grant Institutions. The AAES will adhere to the spirit and intent of these ideals to the maximum extent possible.

The changing environment relative to increased use of legal protection of intellectual property rights through Patent and Trademark law, coupled with the legitimate need to protect unreleased plant materials from premature or unauthorized release, dictates caution. When breeding materials are exchanged either formally or informally, intellectual property rights are not conveyed unless specific agreement to transfer those rights is made. If another individual or organization directly develops a commercial product using AAES unreleased material, they are required to negotiate an appropriate license agreement with the University of Arkansas, based on the value AAES material contributes to the commercial product. When testing or otherwise using plant materials, it is important for individuals to be aware of legal restrictions regarding their use and transportation. This is particularly important for genetically engineered materials and for plant materials protected by utility patents. As indicated earlier, utility patents **do not** automatically provide for a research exemption. A listing of plant materials granted such patents may be obtained from the Patent and Trademark Office.

During the development or testing of plant materials potentially subject to protection under Patent and Trademark law, care must be taken to avoid actions that can bar the granting of a patent. According to patent laws, any of the following acts will prevent issuance of either a plant or utility patent:

1. Prior public knowledge, use or sale;
  - a. the same material was known or used by others in the United States before discovery or invention by the applicant.
  - b. the same material was in public use or on sale by anyone in the United States more than one year prior to the filing date of applicant's application.
2. Prior publication or patenting:
  - a. the same material was patented or described in a printed publication by anyone anywhere before invention by the applicant.
  - b. the same material was patented or described in a printed publication by anyone anywhere more than one year prior to the filing date of applicant's application.
  - c. the same material was patented in a foreign country by applicant as the result of a foreign patent application filed more than one year before the filing date of applicant's United States application.
3. Prior invention by others and abandonment:
  - a. applicant was not the inventor of the material which is the subject of the patent application.
  - b. the same material was invented in the United States by another party prior to applicant's invention of such material (as long as such other party has not abandoned, suppressed or concealed his invention of such material).
  - c. the applicant has abandoned the material.

Publication is construed to be any form of communication "available to the public" and includes newspaper or other press reports, degree theses, reports at conferences, research reports, etc. **If such information was distributed to the public or was available upon request, it may bar the issuance of a patent.**

Even in cases in which Plant Patent protection is not anticipated, it is important to have a formal agreement between the developer and the evaluator of unreleased plant materials. Such an agreement specifies the requirements of both relative to the use of the material and minimizes the chances of misunderstanding.

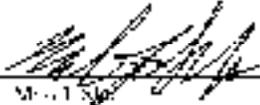
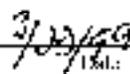
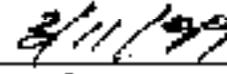
### **PLANT MATERIALS RELEASE COMMITTEE**

The AAES Plant Materials Release Committee is appointed by, and is advisory to, the Associate Vice President-Research of the AAES. The committee shall consist of four voting members appointed by the Associate Vice President-Research from the departments of Horticulture, Agronomy, Entomology and Plant Pathology, with each department equally represented. Members will serve staggered terms, with one member rotating off each year. The committee chair will be the Director of the Arkansas Crop Variety Improvement Program.

This Committee will be responsible for advising the Associate Vice President-Research on general policy and procedures regarding release of plant materials. Secondly, it will evaluate the merits and procedures of individual requests for releasing germplasm lines. In addition, the Committee will be expanded as described below to evaluate new plant materials being proposed for release as varieties.

*Ex officio* members will consist of the Unit Head(s) from Horticulture and Agronomy, an Extension representative, Industry representative(s) for horticultural and agronomic crops and the manager of the Arkansas Variety Testing Program. Additional persons with specific knowledge of the proposed variety may be invited to participate in committee discussions at the discretion of the PMRC and/or the Associate Vice President-Research. A representative from Agricultural Publications will act as Recorder for the Committee and be responsible for all public relations activities related to the release.

**Approval**

 _____ Mark T. Smith Vice President for Agriculture	 _____ Date:
 _____ Charles F. Solinas Dean and Associate Vice President for Agriculture for Research	 _____ Date:

ATTACHMENT 1

Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station

APPROVAL FORM FOR RELEASE OF PLANT MATERIALS

Distribution following final action:
1 copy - Assoc. V.P. Res. Office
1 copy - Unit Head
1 copy - PMRC Chair

INSTRUCTIONS: Submit typed approval form, along with plant materials proposal to Unit Head \*UH), UH will forward approved proposals to the Plant Materials Release Committee (PMRC) who will recommend approval or disapproval to AAES Assoc. V.P. Research. Upon decision the packet is returned to PMRC, who will distribute documents to appropriate agencies, UH and PMRC secretary. An approval packet will be retained in AAES as a file, the disapproved packet will be returned to UH who will deliver it to the scientist.

Department \_\_\_\_\_ A.A.E.S. (Scientist(s)): \_\_\_\_\_

Common and Scientific Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Experimental Designation: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Release Proposed (Check all applicable categories):  Germplasm  Parental Line

Commercial Cultivar  Unrestricted Public  Restricted  PVPA or Patent Protection

Cooperating Agency(ies) & Scientist(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Departmental Approval: \_\_\_\_\_
Lead Scientist Date

\_\_\_\_\_
Unit Head Date

Plant Materials Release Committee Recommendations:  Approve  Disapprove  Conditional

Recommended Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_
PMRC Chair Date

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Permission to release information to public:  Yes  No  Exception

Date on or after which information may be publically released: \_\_\_\_\_

If exception, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_
Associate Vice President-Research of AAES Date

**ATTACHMENT 2**

**SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE LICENSING FOR EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS  
OF PRODUCTION AND MARKETING  
OF \_\_\_\_\_**

Applications are solicited from companies interested in being licensed for exclusive rights of production and marketing of \_\_\_\_\_ Developed by the Arkansas Agriculture Experiment Station. The Licensing of exclusive rights of production and marketing may be granted by the A.A.E.S. to the applicant(s) Based on the following criteria:

1. the ability of the applicant to effectively and efficiently manage the production of certified classes of seed or the propagation stock of the variety;
2. the ability of the applicant to effectively and efficiently manage the processing and packaging (conditioning) of the certified class seed of the variety so as to provide a high quality product packaged in appropriate ways necessary to meet the demands of consumers;
3. the ability of the applicant to effectively and efficiently market seed or the propagation stock of the variety through a network of merchandizing channels in geographic regions to which it is adapted;
4. the ability and willingness of the applicant to actively promote the variety in a factual and responsible manner, and
5. royalty fee payable to the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Arkansas.

Interested companies should complete the attached form (Application for Consideration of Exclusive Licensing for Production and Marketing of \_\_\_\_\_ ) and return it to Associate Vice President-Research, Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Arkansas, 205 Agricultural Bldg., Fayetteville, AR 72701. Deadline for receiving applications is \_\_\_\_\_. The Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station reserves the right to reject any or all applications.

**ATTACHMENT 3**

**FORMAT FOR APPLYING FOR CONSIDERATION OF EXCLUSIVE  
LICENSING OF PRODUCTION AND MARKETING  
OF \_\_\_\_\_**

1. Name and address of company or organization

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2. Describe your company's organization, capabilities, production and conditioning locations, specialists, and marketing area(s).

3. Cite specific experience in production and distribution/marketing of \_\_\_\_\_ seed.  
(Indicate production areas and arrangements for conditioning/packaging sites, distribution/marketing channels, and average clean seed production in lbs/A).

