



October 28, 2014

**NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE  
TRANSMITTAL NOTICE NO. NM-72**

**SUBJECT:** ECS – ‘Windbreaker’ Big Sacaton (*Sporobolus wrightii*) A Bio-Energy Forage Source

**Purpose:** To distribute information about the usefulness of ‘Windbreaker’ big sacaton for possible bio-energy production in the southwestern United States. The Los Lunas Plant Materials Center (LLPMC) in Los Lunas, NM conducted a forage production trial over a three-year period (2010-2012) evaluating ‘Windbreaker’ big sacaton’s potential as a bio-energy source. The need for alternative bio-energy forage sources in the United States is a national priority, and big sacaton should be considered a candidate for this type of energy source.

**Effective Date:** This notice is effective when received.

**Filing Instructions:** These documents are accessible through New Mexico NRCS electronic Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Section I – Technical Notes – Plant Materials.

<http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/treemenuFS.aspx>

**Explanation:** This technical note was prepared by the LLPMC. This technical note presents data from a study conducted at the LLPMC on the use of ‘Windbreaker’ big sacaton to help in the exploration of alternative energy sources for the United States. This study provides information about the use of a locally-adapted, native grass species found in the southwestern U.S. that could be a substitute for other grass species currently being evaluated in other parts of the country.

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