

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
— Agricultural Research Service  
Washington, D. C.

and

WASHINGTON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER  
Washington State University  
Pullman, Washington

and

IDAHO AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
University of Idaho  
Moscow, Idaho

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF 'EVANS' CHICKPEA

The Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture; the Washington Agricultural Research Center; and the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station announce the release and naming of a large-seeded kabuli-type chickpea cultivar 'Evans' (*Cicer arietinum* L.). Evans was developed by the Agricultural Research Service, Grain Legume Genetics and Physiology Research Unit at Pullman, Washington, in cooperation with the College of Agriculture and Home Economics, Agricultural Research Center of Washington State University and the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Idaho.

Evans (selection CA188163) originated as a F<sub>6</sub> selection from the cross FLIP 85-58/Surutato 77 made by I. Kusmenoglu (USDA-ARS Grain Legume Project) located at Washington State University in 1988. Evans is being released because of its' earliness to flower and mature and because it has good resistance to ascochyta blight caused by *Ascochyta rabiei* (Pass.) Lab. Ascochyta blight has devastated chickpea crops in the U.S. Pacific Northwest each year since the disease was discovered in 1983, and especially in 1987 when over 50 percent of the chickpea crop was destroyed. Resistance to ascochyta blight was assessed in the disease screening nursery established at the Washington State University Spillman Research Farm, Pullman, Washington.

Evans has a unifoliate leaf structure which is similar to that of cultivars such as 'Sanford', 'Dwelley', and 'Surutato-77' and differs from the pinnately compound "fern" leaf structure typical of cultivars such as 'UC-5', 'UC-27', and 'Spanish White.' Plants of Evans are branched at the base and have an indeterminate flowering habit. Pods are rhomboid-ellipsoid and have glandular trichomes which give them a somewhat pubescent appearance. Pods of Evans mostly have one seed. Seeds of Evans weigh an average of 46.1 grams per 100 seeds, which compares to 42.4 grams per 100 seeds for Sanford and 49.1 grams per 100 seeds for Dwelley. Evans flowers 5 to 7 days earlier compared to Sanford or Dwelley and matures 2 to 3 days earlier. Evans was named after the Evans family who farm near Genesee, Idaho and were one of the first

producers of the chickpea crop when it was introduced in the Palouse region in 1981.

Breeder seed of Evans will be maintained by the Washington State Crop Improvement Association. Foundation seed will be available from the Washington State Crop Improvement Association, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington 99164. Genetic material of this release will be deposited in the National Plant Germplasm System where it will be available for research purposes, including development and commercialization of new cultivars.

Release date for publicity purposes shall be effective on the date of final signature of the release notice.

Richard C. Heemick  
Director  
Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station  
University of Idaho

6/17/97  
Date

James R. Carlson  
Director  
Agricultural Research Center  
Washington State University

6-18-97  
Date

for Sheri B. Leggett  
Administrator  
Agricultural Research Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

6-23-97  
Date