

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

and

NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
North Dakota State University
Fargo, ND 58105

and

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER
Washington State University
Pullman, Washington 99164

and

IDAHO AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho 83844

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF 'SAWYER' CHICKPEA

The Agricultural Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture announces the release and naming of a medium size Café-type Kabuli chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.), 'SAWYER'. SAWYER was developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Grain Legume Genetics and Physiology Research Unit at Pullman, Washington. SAWYER, selection number CA0090B347C, originated as an F₅ selection from progenies from the cross Dwelley(C95-604-1)/Eser 87(C95-603-4) made by F.J. Muehlbauer in 1995. The primary reason for release of SAWYER is to provide the chickpea industry with a high yielding Café type kabuli chickpea variety with broad adaptability and has a high level of resistance to *Ascochyta* blight.

SAWYER was yield tested in eastern Washington, northern Idaho, North Dakota and South Dakota, California, Colorado, Oregon, Montana, Wyoming and Nebraska for a total of 50 site-years over five years of testing from 2003 to 2007. Yields of SAWYER were greater than other previously released cultivars including 'Dwelley', 'Troy', 'Dylan' and 'Sierra' when compared over all site years. When compared at 15 site-years in the Palouse region (Washington and Idaho), yields of Dwelley, Sierra and Dylan were 1170 and 1291 and 1327 kg/ha, respectively compared to 1440 kg/ha for SAWYER. SAWYER has good resistance to *Ascochyta* blight caused by *Ascochyta rabiei* (Pass.) Labr., a common and destructive disease of chickpea in most production areas. The combination of broad

adaptation with increased resistance to Ascochyta blight was the primary reason for the release of **SAWYER**.

Plants of **SAWYER** averaged 43 cm (17 inches) tall and have an upright growth habit with simple type leaves. Flowering begins at about 20 cm (8 inches) above the soil surface and commences about 60 days after planting depending on climatic conditions compared to 67 and 62 days for Dwelley and Sierra, respectively. **SAWYER** has good resistance to lodging and remains upright at maturity. Crop maturity of **SAWYER** is earlier than Dwelley and Sierra and about 104 days after planting. Seeds of **SAWYER** average 43.8 grams/100 seeds which is equivalent to 1043 seeds per pound compared to Dwelley and Sierra at 50.3 and 52.1 grams/100 seeds and 920 and 882 seeds/pound, respectively.

Breeder seed of **SAWYER** 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 and the North Dakota Foundation Seedstocks Project, P.O. Box 5051, Fargo, ND 58105.

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

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 varieties/cultivars. Plant variety protection will not be pursued for this variety. It is requested that appropriate recognition be made if this germplasm contributes to the development of a new breeding line or cultivar.

Administrator, Agricultural Research Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Date

Director, Agricultural Experiment Station
North Dakota State University

Date

Director, Agricultural Experiment Station
Washington State University

Date

Director, Agricultural Experiment Station
University of Idaho

Date