Registration of Improved Wheat Varieties, XIX

Fred N. Briggs

SEVENTY-SIX varieties of wheat have been registered previous to this report, the last report appearing in 1950. Kiowa wheat has been approved.

KIOWA, REG. NO. 346

Kiowa (C.I. 12133) was selected in 1942 from a cross of Chiefkan × Oro-Tenmarq, made in 1938 at the Fort Hays Branch Experiment Station, Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station, Hays, and U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. Information regarding Kiowa was furnished by A. F. Swanson who applied for its registration. It is described as a midseason, medium tall, strong stem winter wheat with mid-dense, awned spike. Glumes are glabrous, white, or may be slightly brownish with a tinge of black streak at base, mid-long and mid-wide. Beak is acuminate and 4 to 6 mm long. Kernels are elliptical in shape.

The superior characters of Kiowa are high yield and test weight, good straw strength; it is resistant to shattering and bunt, tolerant to stem rust, but highly susceptible to loose smut. It is not resistant to Hessian fly or leaf rust. Kiowa has excellent milling and baking quality, with mixing tolerance slightly under Comanche, but better than Pawnee.

Registered under a cooperative arrangement between the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, and the American Society of Agronomy. Received for publication November 26, 1951.

*Professor of Agronomy, University of California, Davis, Calif. Member of Committee on Varietal Standardization and Registration of the Society of Agronomy.


Registration of Varieties and Strains of Bluegrass (Poa Spp.)

W. M. Myers

This is a first report on the registration of varieties of Bluegrass (Poa Spp.) according to the revised classification of forage crops for registration purposes by the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering and the American Society of Agronomy.

MERION KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS (REG. NO. 1)

Merion, a variety of Kentucky bluegrass, originated as a single plant selection made by the Superintendent of the Merion Golf Club, Ardmore, Penn. in 1936. This plant selection and apomictic seed progenies, obtained through succeeding generations from it, have been tested over a 14-year period by the U. S. Golf Association, Green Section, and the Division of Forage Crops and Diseases, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, in the cooperative turf research program. It has also been tested by cooperating agencies in California, Oregon, Colorado, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Kentucky. Registration of Merion was submitted jointly by the U. S. Golf Association, Green Section and the Division of Forage Crops and Diseases, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

In comparison with common Kentucky bluegrass and other strains of Kentucky bluegrass that are available commercially, Merion is characterized by a high degree of resistance to Helminthosporium leaf spot and by a growth habit which enables it to withstand close mowing. It is a low-growing type, with height at flowering of 8 to 16 inches or more, depending upon management and other factors. The leaves are short and three to five millimeters wide. It has numerous, vigorous rhizomes and is, as a result, a rapid-spreading form that produces a dense turf in a relatively short time. For this reason, and also because of its resistance to the Helminthosporium leaf spot, Merion bluegrass resists the invasion of crabgrass and other weeds more effectively than do other strains of Kentucky bluegrass with which it has been tested.

Plants of Merion variety are predominately apomictic in seed production, thus, facilitating the increase of seed without loss of the important characteristics of the variety. Seed of Merion was first distributed in 1947 and is now being grown commercially. Additional information on Merion has been published.

Registered under a cooperative arrangement between Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture and the American Society of Agronomy. Received for publication November 26, 1951.

*Director of Field Crops Research, B.P.I.S.A.E., A.R.A., U.S.D.A., Beltsville, Md. Member of the Committee on Varietal Standardization and Registration charged with the registration of grass varieties.