Registration of Varieties and Strains of Wheatgrass, II

*Agropyron Spp.*

M. A. Hein

This is the second report on the registration of varieties and strains of wheatgrass (*Agropyron* spp.) according to the revised classification of forage crops for registration purposes by Field Crops Research Branch, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the American Society of Agronomy. The first report was published in 1951.4

NORDAN CRESTED WHEATGRASS (Reg. No. 2)

Nordan, a variety of standard crested wheatgrass, *Agropyron desertorum* (Fisch.) Schult. was developed cooperatively at the Northern Great Plains Field Station, Mandan, N. Dak. by the Field Crops Research Branch, Agricultural Research Service, and the former Division of Nurseries, Soil Conservation Service.

The original selection for Nordan was made on the experiment station at Dickinson, N. Dak. in 1937. Vigorous, erect, leafy plants with large awnless seeds were then selected under open pollination during a period of two generations. Seed of seven plants from the best open pollinated line resulting from these selections was bulked for one year to compare it with commercial lots and strains of wheatgrass of local origin.

The primary justification for the release of Nordan, however, is its superiority in plant type, quality of seed, and seedling vigor which results in greater ease in handling and in establishing stands.

Another important characteristic of Nordan is its purity for the Standard type. Much of the commercial Standard now grown contains a mixture of Fairway which has been found in many tests to be inferior. Since this is the first distinct strain of Standard to be released for use in this country it will be one of the few sources of pure seed of the Standard type.

Foundation seed is maintained by the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, and is available to commercial growers. Additional information on Nordan crested wheatgrass has been published.5

Table 1.—Comparative seed and forage yields of Nordan and commercial Standard crested wheatgrass at Mandan, N. Dak.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1951</th>
<th>1952</th>
<th>1953</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nordan</td>
<td>2.85</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>3.18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Standard</td>
<td>2.85</td>
<td>3.42</td>
<td>3.14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nordan</td>
<td>748</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>534</td>
<td>571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Standard</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>475</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Seed and forage yields are as good or somewhat better than those of commercial Standard as shown in table 1. The primary justification for the release of Nordan, however, is its superiority in plant type, quality of seed, and seedling vigor which results in greater ease in handling and in establishing stands.

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