selecting the most productive plants from space-planted Abruzzi rye over a 20-year period. Selection was also made for large kernels by screening out the small and shrunken kernels.

Athens Abruzzi is a winterhardy variety with the ability to produce forage during the months of December, January, and February if the average daily temperature does not drop below 4.4 C (40 F). This observation was made in January and February 1958 when the mean temperature for these 2 months was 4.2C (39.7F), the lowest bimonthly mean temperature ever recorded in Athens. Athens Abruzzi has never exhibited winter-killing at Athens. It has been one of the top forage yielders in the Piedmont area of Georgia. At the College Experiment Station, Athens Abruzzi, over a 2-year period (1966-68), produced 8253 kg/ha of dry matter as compared to 8057, 7352 for 'Bonel,' 'Elbon,' and 'Explorer' ryes, respectively. At the Georgia Experiment Station it had a 3-year (1968-71) average of 6943 kg/ha of dry matter per acre as compared to 6913, 6718, 6688, and 6505 for 'McNair Vitagraze,' Elbon, 'Pennington Wintergrazer,' and 'Wrens Abruzzi,' respectively.

Grain yields of this new variety are equal or superior to varieties now grown. The average yield of grain for 3 years (1969-72) was 2659 kg/ha (42.4 bu/acre), exceeded only by Elbon rye. Athens Abruzzi had a yield of 3939 kg/ha at the experiment, Georgia, in 1971 compared to 3985 for Elbon. The kernels range from light to dark brown with a few seeds entirely black. Kernel weights vary from 709 to 794 g/liter.

Athens Abruzzi rye is susceptible to leaf rust, Puccinia recondita Rob. Ex. Desm. f. sp. secalis (Dikr.) Eriks. f. sp. T55001 Castor Composite. Released in July, 1972 by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station at Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Lubbock, Texas.

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