REGISTRATION OF TREK ALFALFA
(Reg. No. 77)
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'TREK' alfalfa (Medicago sativa L.) is an eight-clone synthetic cultivar developed at the Agriculture Canada Research Station, Lethbridge, Alberta. It is the first Canadian cultivar with a high level of resistance to the alfalfa stem nematode (Ditylenchus dipsaci [Kühn] Filipjev). Trek also has a high level of resistance to bacterial wilt (Corynebacterium insidiosum [McCull.] H. L. Jens.).

Trek was developed by backcrossing stem nematode resistance from several sources into the cultivar 'Beaver.' The eight basic clones of the new cultivar were selected from a BC, population of about 3,500 plants. The stem nematode resistance of seven of the eight clones was inherited from the cultivar 'Lahontan' in the original crosses with Beaver. The remaining clone inherited its resistance from a Kayseri alfalfa from Turkey (PI 277425).

Trek is suited for hay and for dehydrated alfalfa production in the irrigated districts in southern Alberta, where the alfalfa stem nematode is prevalent. In this region, it equals Beaver in forage yield and 'Vernal' in winterhardiness. It recovers more rapidly after cutting than either Beaver or Vernal and performs well under a three-cutting harvest schedule in southern Alberta.

A more detailed description of the cultivar, its development, and performance has been published. Trek was licensed in Canada in 1975. It will be multiplied through the breeder, foundation, and certified seed classes. Breeder seed is maintained by the Agricultural Canada Research Station at Lethbridge.

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