Registration of Crop Cultivars

REGISTRATION OF RAM I KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS

A. M. Radko, E. W. Brown, R. H. Hurley, and C. R. Funk

'Ram I' Kentucky bluegrass (Poa pratensis L.) originated from a single, highly apomictic plant found on a putting green of the Webhannet Gold Club, Kennebunk Beach, Maine. The apomictic mode of reproduction of Ram I was determined by examination of field-grown spaced plant progenies. This cultivar was developed by the cooperative efforts of the U. S. Golf Association Green Section, Lofts Pedigreed Seed, Inc. and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. Ram I was released by Lofts Pedigreed Seed, Inc. with the first certified seed sold in 1978.

Ram I is a moderately low-growing, leafy, turf-type cultivar with a medium texture and a rich, dark green color. It has shown good tolerance of close mowing (2 cm), good spring greenup, and an above average ability to resist invasion by annual bluegrass (Poa annua L.). Ram I has demonstrated moderate resistance to the leaf spot and crown rot disease incited by Helminthosporium vagans Drechsler, moderately good resistance to stem rust caused by Puccinia graminis Pers. sp. poae Erikss. and Henn., moderate susceptibility to leaf rust caused by P. poae-nemoralis Otth., good resistance to stripe smut caused by Ustilago striiformis (Westend.) Niessl. and good resistance to most races of powdery mildew caused by Erysiphe graminis DC. It has exhibited above average tolerance to herbicidal applications of tricalcium arsenate.

Ram I appears to be well suited for golf courses, sod operations, athletic fields, parks, and home lawns, especially in blends with many of the better cultivars of Kentucky bluegrass and in mixtures with the improved turf-type perennial ryegrasses (Lolium perenne L.) and fine fescues (Festuca spp.)

Seed propagation is limited to two generations of increase from breeder seed, each one of foundation and certified. Breeder seed is produced in spaced-plant nurseries by the Jacklin Seed Company of Post Falls, Idaho under the supervision of Lofts Pedigreed Seed, Inc. and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. Plant Variety Protection Certificate No. 7800069 is assigned to Lofts Pedigreed Seed, Inc., Bound Brook, New Jersey. Breeder seed will be maintained by the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. Plant Variety Protection Certificate No. 7900085 has been assigned to Lofts Pedigreed Seed, Inc.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Sincere appreciation is expressed to the United States Golf Association Green Section Research and Education Fund, Inc., for their generous support of the turfgrass breeding program.

REGISTRATION OF KEET ANNUAL CANARYGRASS

R. G. Robinson

'Keet' annual canarygrass (Phalaris canariensis L.) was named 'KEET' annual canarygrass (Phalaris canariensis L.) and released by the Minnesota Agric. Exp. Stn. in 1979. Keet was selected at Rosemount, Minn., as a single, highly apomictic plant found on a putting green of the U.S. Golf Association Green Section, Lofts Pedigreed Seed, Inc. and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. Keet was released by Lofts Pedigreed Seed, Inc. with the first certified seed sold in 1978.

Keet is uniform in appearance and has a compact, oval-shaped, spike-like panicle. The panicles retain seed following losses are usually small. This cultivar is well adapted to Minnesota, St. Paul.

Keet (Minn. 82) was tested from 1972 through 1978 at Rosemount and from 1975 or 1976 through 1978 at Crookston, Minn. It averaged 3 days earlier to maturity and from 1975 or 1976 through 1978 at Crookston, Minn. It averaged 3 days earlier to maturity than 'Alden', the only cultivar grown at Crookston, Minn. Keet lodged less than Alden and its seed is of higher test weight. Because of its earliness, Keet should significantly extend the area of commercial annual canarygrass production.

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