Registration of Varieties of Bermudagrass

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SUWANNEE (Reg. No. 6)

SUWANNEE bermudagrass, *Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers., is an F₂ hybrid between an African introduction P.I. 105935 and Tift bermuda. When compared with common bermudagrass, the stems, stolons, and rhizomes of Suwannee bermuda are found to be larger and to have longer internodes. Suwannee bermudagrass grows tall enough to cut for hay or silage whereas the common type rarely does. Its leaves are much longer and form a more acute angle with the stem than the leaves of common bermuda. At Tifton, Georgia, Suwannee bermudagrass develops few heads and these usually contain very few viable seeds (2).

Suwannee bermudagrass is highly resistant to the *Helminthosporium* leafspots that attack common bermuda. It has a very deep root system and is much more drought resistant than common bermudagrass. In a season of high rainfall, common, Coastal, and Suwannee bermuda growing on a deep sand and fertilized with 200 pounds of nitrogen per acre yielded 3.2, 6.2, and 7.1 tons of dry matter per acre, respectively. In a very dry year, their respective yields were 0.5, 3.1, and 4.4 tons of dry matter per acre (3, 4).

Suwannee bermudagrass tolerates more frost, makes more growth in the fall, and often remains green much later than common bermuda. It is much less winterhardy, however, and must be restricted to Florida and the lower third of Georgia and the Gulf states.

When grown on deep sands and cut for hay, Suwannee bermudagrass has outyielded Coastal regardless of fertility level (Table 1). These data show this difference to be greatest at low fertility

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