Registration of Crop Cultivars

REGISTRATION OF BLAZER AND PEAK ALFALFA
(Reg. No. 92 and 93)

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'BLAZER' and 'Peak' alfalfa (Medicago sativa L.) were developed by Land O'Lakes, Inc.

Blazer

Blazer (Reg. No. 92) was tested experimentally as P455 and P455A. It is a 10-clone, winter-hardy synthetic with one clone each from 'Valor,' 'Pacer,' and 'Weevilcheck,' two clones from 'Saranac,' and five clones tracing to 'Titan,' 'Washoe,' 'Buffalo,' 'Flemish,' and a Flemish-'Vernal' intercross. Selection was based on intensive clonal, S1, and polycross progeny tests for forage yield, seed yield, winterhardiness, insect and disease resistance in trials conducted in Iowa, Minnesota, and Idaho.

Blazer is adapted across the northern part of the USA. It has late summer and fall regrowth similar to 'Ranger.' It has produced forage yields in the Upper Midwest equal to or greater than Vernal, Saranac, and 'Agate.' Blazer has a higher level of resistance to bacterial wilt caused by Corynebacterium insidiosum (McCull) H. L. Jens than Vernal, resistance to Phytophthora root rot caused by Phytophthora megasperma Drechs similar to Agate, resistance to pea aphid (Acyrthosiphon pisum (Harris)) equal to 'Dawson,' resistance to stem nematode (Ditylenchus dipsaci (Kuhn) Filipjev) equal to 'Lahontan,' and a moderate level of resistance to Fusarium wilt caused by Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. medicaginis (Weimer) Snyder & Hans similar to Agate. Flower color is mostly purple (60 to 78%) and variegated (22 to 40%) with a small percentage of yellows and whites (0 to 2%).

Peak

Peak (Reg. No. 93) was tested experimentally as LL359 and LL359A. It is a nine-clone, moderately hardy synthetic cultivar with two clones from Saranac, one clone each from Pacer and Valor, and five clones tracing to Buffalo, Titan, 'Alfa,' 'Weevilcheck,' and a Flemish intercross. Parent clones were selected on the basis of intensive clonal, S1, and polycross progeny tests for forage yield, seed yield, pest resistance, and winterhardiness in trials conducted in Iowa, Minnesota, and Idaho.

Peak is adapted across the northern U.S. It has an upright growth habit and late summer and fall regrowth similar to 'Ranger.' Forage yields of Peak in the Upper Midwest have been equal to or greater than Vernal, Saranac, and 'Agate.' Peak has a higher level of resistance to bacterial wilt than Vernal, resistance to Phytophthora root rot similar to Agate, resistance to pea aphid equal to Dawson, resistance to stem nematode equal to Lahontan, and a low level of resistance to Fusarium wilt equal to 'Narragansett.' Flower color is mostly purple (51 to 74%) and variegated (26 to 49%) with a trace of yellows and whites (0 to 1%).

Breeder seed of both Blazer and Peak was produced by hand-crossing in the greenhouse and by bees in cages at Caldwell, Idaho, using replicated cuttings. Breeders seed is maintained in cold storage and parent clones are being maintained by Land O'Lakes, Inc. and tested experimentally as LL159 and assigned registration as a replacement for Erbet (early Betzes) with the contraction of "early-shatter resistant-'Betzes,'" since it is in-