Covar originated from PI-109497, collected south of Konya, Turkey. It is a dwarf, blue-green, densely tufted, erect-growing perennial with abundant fine stems. Leaves are narrow, short, stiff, basal, and abundant. Covar is shorter, more uniform and has a deeper blue color than other sheep fescue selections. Common sheep fescue seed lots are highly variable and often contaminated with hard (F. longifolia Thuill.) and chewings (F. rubra var. commutata Gaud.) fescues.

Covar was compared with 63 individual strains at Pullman (50 cm annual precipitation) and Lind (25 cm annual precipitation), Washington. In a 6-year herbage production study, it produced as much forage as Idaho fescue (F. idahoensis Elmer), averaging 953 kg/ha air-dry forage annually. Results of subsequent trials at Lind and 18 field plantings in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho show that Covar is an aggressive competitor that forms an attractive, drought-tolerant erosion control cover on sites where Idaho fescue or western fescue (F. occidentalis Hook.) are native. It was rated a more desirable groundcover than big bluegrass (Poa annua L.), hard fescue, creeping red fescue (F. rubra L.), and crested wheatgrass (Agropyron desertorum (Fisch.) Schult.) in 25 to 35-cm precipitation zones.

As a fine-leaved fescue, Covar is somewhat slow to establish. Once established it is very persistent, winter-hardy, drought-tolerant, and resistant to common turf diseases. No insects have adversely affected Covar to date.

Dryland seed production at Pullman is 350 to 550 kg/ha. Covar has been a more prolific and reliable seed producer than Idaho fescue.

Breeder seed is maintained by the Soil Conservation Service at the Plant Materials Center, 257 Johnson Hall, Washington State Univ., Pullman, WA 99164. Foundation seed for commercial production can be obtained through the Washington State Crop Improvement Assoc., Idaho Crop Improvement Assoc., and Oregon Foundation Seed Project.

REGISTRATION OF RENNER WEEPING LOVEGRASS1
(Reg. No. 67)

J. C. Read, B. J. Simpson, and L. J. Streetman*1

'Renner' weeping lovegrass [Eragrostis curvula (Schrad.) Nees.] was developed by the Texas Research Foundation and transferred to the Texas Agric. Exp. Stn. Stn. during 1979. Renner was an introduction (PI 294 484) from Canada. It was selected in 1963 from a group of 54 introductions for high palatability and vigor. Renner reproduces vegetatively with genetic variation. It was released by Texas Research Foundation and a certificate of Plant Variety Protection was issued 15 Feb. 1977.

Renner can be distinguished from the other weeping lovegrasses by its broader leaves and blue-green color compared to bright green for common, 'Ermelo'. The reddish-brown seeds of Renner are 15%, smaller in color when compared to the seeds of common. Morpa. The heading date of Renner is early compared to the other varieties. Herbage yields of Renner have been higher than Morpa but have out-yielded Morpa at the higher fertility levels of common. Rennet is adapted to southern 2/3 of Texas. It is less winter-hardy than Morpa, but common. Renner is adapted to southern 2/3 of Texas. It is less winter-hardy than common. Breeders seed will be maintained by the Texas Agric. Lab., Texas Agric. Laboratory, Texas Research Foundation.

REGISTRATION OF MONARCH CICER MILKVETCH1
(Reg. No. 20)

C. E. Townsend

'Monarch' cicer milkvetch (Astragalus hypogaeus L.) was released by AR-SEA-USDA and the Colorado State Univ. in February 1980. It was tested as Strohmaier Monarch.

Monarch is a 40-clonal synthetic cultivar with improved seedling emergence. Ten of the parental clones were selected directly to PI 66515 (Sweden). Six parental clones were from an 18-clonal composite developed at Blacksburg, Va. This composite was PI 66515 (two clones), PI 794087 (four clones), PI 206405 (three clones), and PI 1893-6968 (four clones). The last two sources are believed to have come from Hungary via Canada. Six parental clones were selected from crosses between parents with high seed yield and trace to either the Blacksburg Composite or the parental clones were selected for their vigor in a 20 C day/15 C night growth chamber. Eleven of the 18 clones trace to PI 66515.