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 (T. 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 FORAGER TALL FESCUE
(Reg. No. 17)

S. J. Baluch, S. D. Stratton, and R. J. Buker

'Forager' tall fescue (Festuca arundinacea Schreb.) is a hay and pasture cultivar developed by FFR Cooperative. Its experimental designation was FFR Syn I. Tall fescue clones were visually selected from public cultivars and plant introductions at West Lafayette, Ind. These selections were placed in a polycross block for seed production. The 12 parent clones of Forager were selected in 1973, based on clonal and polycross progeny test data.

Forager's area of adaptation is similar to that of 'Ky-31.' It has wide, dark green leaves, and has shown high forage yields, good persistence, and good tolerance to drought and crown damage. 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 (T. longifolia Thuill.) and chewings (F. rubra var. commutata Gaud.) fescues.

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REGISTRATION OF RENNER LOVEGRASS
(Reg. No. 67)

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

'RENNER' weeping lovegrass [Eragrostis curvula (Schreb.) Nees.] was developed by the Texas Research Foundation and transferred to the Texas Agric. Exp. Stn. Renner was an introduction (PI 294 484) from the Netherlands via Canada. It was selected in 1963 from a group of 54 for its palatability and vigor. Renner reproduces by apomixis, and genetic variation exists. It was released in 1971 by the Texas Research Foundation and a certificate of Plant Varietal Right was issued 15 Feb. 1977.

Renner can be distinguished from the other weeping lovegrasses by its broader leaves and blue-green color. It has bright green forage compared to bright green for common, Ermelo, and reddish-brown seeds for Renner are 15% smaller in color than when compared to seeds of other weeping lovegrasses. Herbage yields of Rennet are lower than those of Rennet but has out-yielded Morpa at the same forage in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Stephenville. Total dry matter is similar to Morpa and Ern, and common. Renner is adapted to common across the middle of Texas. It is less winter-hardy than the common. Breeder seed will be maintained at the Texas Agric. Exp. Stn., Dallas, Tex.

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

C. E. Townsend

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

Monarch is a 40-clone synthetic cultivar with improved seedling emergence. Ten of the parental clones trace directly to PI 66515 (Sweden). Six parental clones trace to the Blacksburg Composite or PI 206405 (Turkey). Four parental clones were from F~ plants (Reg. No. 20)

C. E. Townsend