REGISTRATION OF HEINRICHS ALFALFA

'Heinrichs' alfalfa (Medicago media Pers.) (Reg. no. 139) was developed at the Agriculture Canada Research Station, Swift Current, Saskatchewan. It was tested experimentally as Sc 3702 and was licensed for use in Canada in October 1981.

Heinrichs is a 12-clone synthetic resulting from two cycles of recurrent selection for low leaf/stem ratio within crosses among 'Rambler' (2), 'Roamer' (1), their parental stocks, and five introductions of Medicago sativa L. from the USSR: Sc 16113 (Kamalinskaia 930 from the Krasnodar region), SC 16131 (Zabaikalka from Chita region), SC 16132 (Pestrogibridnaia from Kazakhstan), SC 16136 (Omskaia 2251 from the Omsk region), and SC 16150 (Livinetkaia from the Ukraine). Large, vigorous plants were selected and subsequently screened for resistance to bacterial wilt caused by Corynebacterium insidiosum (McCull.) H.L. Jens. Although the original selection criterion was a low leaf/stem ratio under greenhouse conditions, the resulting population is similar to other cultivars in protein content. A more detailed description of Heinrichs and its performance has been published (3).

Heinrichs is an erect-growing, hay-type cultivar which produces 10% more dry matter than Rambler and is equal to it in winter-hardiness. It should replace Rambler for hay production in the Brown and Dark Brown soil zones of Saskatchewan and Alberta. It will be particularly useful in hay-land situations where stands are retained for extended periods. Heinrichs is creeping rooted, variegated in flower color, and the plants exhibit the broad crowns typical of winter-hardy genotypes. Seed yields are about 12% less than Rambler. Heinrichs has the same level of resistance to bacterial wilt as 'Drylander' and is only slightly lower than 'Beaver'. It is recommended as a hay crop to be seeded alone or in alternate rows with intermediate wheatgrass or crested wheatgrass.

Breeder seed of Heinrichs is being maintained by the Agriculture Canada Research Station, Swift Current, Saskatchewan. The multiplication and distribution of Foundation and Certified seed is being handled by SeCan Assoc., Suite 512, 885 Meadowlands Dr., Ottawa, Ontario. K2C 3M2.

T. Lawrence and R.B. Irvine (4)

References and Notes