REGISTRATION OF TIFTON 68 BERMUDAGRASS

'TIFTON 68' bermudagrass (Cynodon nlemfuensis Vanderyst) (Reg. no. 14) was developed by the USDA-ARS in cooperation with the University of Georgia’s Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton, GA. Tifton 68 bermudagrass is an F₁ hybrid between PI255450 and PI293606, the two most digestible bermudagrasses in our collection of 500 introductions from various parts of the world. It is a giant type with large stems, long stolons, and no rhizomes. It spreads rapidly when planted vegetatively and has usually outyielded everything in the test the 1st year partly because of its rapid spread and establishment. In a clipping test comparing 81 hybrids from 1974 to 1976 (mild winters) average annual dry matter yields for Tifton 68, 'Coastal' and all entries were 14 000, 13 300, and 12 200 kg/ha, respectively. Respectively in vitro dry matter digestibilities for the dry matter harvested were 64.3, 54.9, and 57.3%. In a 24-week clipping test with replicated plots cut at 1, 2, 4, and 8-week intervals, Tifton 68 gave higher in vitro dry matter digestibility (IVDMD) values than either Coastal or 'Coastcross-1' [C. dactylon (L.) Pers.] (1).

In an animal feeding trial at Tifton, steers gained 10% faster on Tifton 68 pellets than on Coastal bermudagrass pellets. Pastures we had hoped to graze in 1977 suffered such heavy winter damage in 1976-1977 that the test was abandoned. Tifton 68 looked good the 1st year in plantings in Alabama and Homer, LA., but suffered greatly from winter injury in 1976-1977.

Several cattlemen in Mexico report outstanding production and animal performance on Tifton 68 bermudagrass. For areas where temperatures rarely drop below freezing, Tifton 68 should be an excellent choice for both pasture and hay production.

Tifton 68 is fertile, sheds pollen freely, and should be an excellent parent to produce hybrids with increased digestibility.

The Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton, will maintain breeder stock.

GLENN W. BURTON AND WARREN G. MONSON (2)

References and Notes

REGISTRATION OF OSCEOLA WHITE CLOVER

Osceola is similar in appearance to other ladino clovers and it produces 100% more flowers than cultivars tested in Florida. It has 50% fewer nodules than 'La S-1' (10 × 10⁻³ mg/kg) intermediate white clover. Because of improved persistence which during the period of growth, total yields of Osceola and forage yields of 'Tillman', Regal, La S-1, and 'Osceola' expected in a 3-year test at Gainesville, Florida were 68, 64, and 56% of Osceola, respectively.

Seed classes of Osceola will be bred, registered and certified. Certified seed shall be produced from foundation or registered seed. Breeder seed, maintained by the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station and foundation seed by the Florida Foundation Seed Producers, P.O. Box 309, Greenwood, FL 32611. Seed distribution will be handled by the Turf and Forage Seed Division Hi-Bred Int., P.O. Box 346, Savannah, GA 31401.

D.D. BALTENSPERGER, C.E. DEAN, AND E.S. HORNER (1)

REGISTRATION OF MUSTANG TALL FECUE

'MUSTANG' tall fescue (Festuca arundinacea Schreb. L.) (Reg. no. 29) was developed and released by Pickseed West, Inc., of Tangent, OR, using germplasm developed at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (1). Mustang is an advanced generation synthetic cultivar selected from the progenies of 65 clones. The original source of parental germplasm constituting Mustang came from trispecies hybrids of tall fescue (F. arundinacea Schreb.), meadow fescue (F. pratensis Huds.) obtained from the United States Regional Pasture Research Laboratory, and white clover (Trifolium repens L.) (Reg. no. 6) is a cultivar developed from the USDA-ARS USDA-ARS and was released in 1980 for use in the South. Tifton 68 is fertile, sheds pollen freely, and should be an excellent parent to produce hybrids with increased digestibility.

The Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton, will maintain breeder stock.

G. W. BURTON AND W. G. MONSON (2)

References and Notes
1. Assistant professor and professors, Dep. of Agronomy, and the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, Gainesville, FL 32611. Contributions of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station and registered certified. Certified seed shall be produced from foundation or registered seed. Breeder seed is maintained by the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station and foundation seed by the Florida Foundation Seed Producers, P.O. Box 309, Greenwood, FL 32611. Seed distribution handled by the Turf and Forage Seed Division Hi-Bred Int., P.O. Box 346, Savannah, GA 31401.

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