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. Respective 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.

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

REGISTRATION OF OSCEOLA WHITE CLOVER

Osceola is similar in appearance to other white clovers and it produces 100% more flowers than cultivars tested in Florida. It has 50% fewer flowers than 'La S-1' (10 X 10⁻⁴ mg/kg) intermediate white clover.

Because of improved persistence which extends the period of growth, total yields of Osceola and Dry White Clover forage yields of Tillman, Regal, La S-1, and Others improved in a 3-year test at Gainesville, Florida, were 94%, 86%, 54, and 56% of Osceola, respectively.

Seed classes of Osceola will be breeder, Foundation, registered and certified. Certified seed shall be produced from foundation or registered seed. Breeder seed is distributed by the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station and foundation seed by the Florida Foundation Seed Producers, P.O. Box 309, Greenwood, FL 32611. Seed will be produced primarily in California. The marketing and distribution of foundation, registered, and certified seed will be handled by the Turf and Forage Seed Div. of Pioneer Hi-Bred Int., P.O. Box 346, Savage, MN 55378.

D.D. BALTENSPERGER, C.E. DEAN, AND E.K. JOHNSON

References and Notes


REGISTRATION OF MUSTANG TALL FESCUE

'MUSTANG' tall fescue (Festuca arundinacea Schreb. no. 29) was developed and released by Pickseed West, Inc., of Tangent, OR, using germplasm developed at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (N.J.A.E.S.) in the advanced generation synthetic cultivar stage from progenies of 65 clones. The original source of parental germplasm constituting Mustang was plants selected from old turfs in New Jersey, Virginia, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Alabama. In addition to these sources, part of the parental germplasm came from trispecies hybrids of tall fescue (F. arundinacea Schreb.), meadow fescue (F. pratensis Huds.), and ryegrass (Lolium perenne L.) obtained from the New England Pasture Research Laboratory, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH. Mustang is a large-seeded white Illinois type cultivar with an intermediate growth habit. It has a higher herbage yield than the other Illinois type cultivars.

The Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Wooster, OH, will maintain breeder stock.

GLENNA M. BURTON AND W. HENRY I. WOOLF (2)

References and Notes
