excellent fall production when planted early. Some of the rapid fall growth and winter production, characteristic of non-winter-hardy berseem clover, was sacrificed to obtain winter hardiness. Bigbee produces more fall and winter growth than other winter annual clovers except 'Tibbee' crimson clover. In addition, Bigbee continues to produce forage until late May or early June. This production pattern gives Bigbee a longer growing season than any other winter annual legume. This cultivar has produced high yields of dry matter at College Station, TX; College Station, TX; Mississippi State, MS; and Athens, GA. At Ardmore, OK, Bigbee was one of the most consistent legumes for forage production. Its production equalled or exceeded hairy vetch, Vicia villosa Roth., 3 out of 5 years.

Bigbee is susceptible to crown rot (caused by Sclerotinia trifoliorum Eriks.) and other root diseases common to other forage legume species. To date, stands have not been lost from disease epiphytotics such as the virus-root rot complex which has destroyed stands of arrowleaf clover.

Crude protein of Bigbee is slightly higher than that of crimson clover and alfalfa (Medicago sativa L.). Cell wall constituents of berseem increase with maturity but acceptable forage quality is maintained until seed production. Blight has not been reported for animals feeding on berseem clover. Bigbee berseem clover, in combination with perennial or annual cool season grasses, gives high quality forage. The last growth in the spring may be ploughed under as green manure or cut for seed. The performance of berseem clover in clipping studies suggests that productivity is enhanced by rotational grazing.

REGISTRATION OF 'DAWSON' SOYBEAN

'Dawson' soybean [Glycine max (L.) Merr.] (Reg. no. 182) was developed by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station. Dawson was released because of its superior iron chlorosis rating and its yield superiority over 'Evans'.

Dawson is a bulk (F₁) of 12 late Group 0 lines from the strain M70-128. M70-128 was derived from an F₁ plant harvested from a population that had been advanced by single seed descent from the cross Evans X M63-217Y. M63-217Y is a yellow hilum selection of 'Hodgson'. Generations were advanced in Minnesota and Chile. M70-128 was evaluated in Minnesota yield tests from 1975 through 1979, in the Uniform Soybean Tests, Northern States, Preliminary 1 in 1978, and in Group 1 in 1979. During the purification process, considerable segregation for maturity was noted in M70-128. Based on observations made in Minnesota in 1979 and in Chile in 1979 to 1980, 12 early lines from M70-128 were bulked to form M70-128E (the E signifying early). Dawson (M70-128E) was evaluated in Minnesota from 1980 through 1982 and in the Uniform Soybean Tests, Northern States, Group 0 in 1981 and 1982.

Dawson averages 2 days later than Evans and is best adapted as a full season variety from 44° to 47° N Lat, particularly on calcareous soils where iron deficiency chlorosis may be a problem. It is an indeterminate cultivar with purple flowers, gray pubescence, brown pods and dull yellow seed with yellow hilum. In comparison with Evans, Dawson has yielded about 4% higher, has 0.6 percentage units less protein and 0.3 percentage units less oil. Dawson has an iron-deficiency chlorosis score about 1 unit superior to Evans making it similar to 'Swift'. Dawson and Evans are similar in lodging score, plant height, seed quality and seed size. Dawson is resistant to Races 1 and 2 of phytophthora root rot caused by Phytophthora megasperma Drechs. f. sp. glycines Kuan and Erwin.

Bigbee produces an abundance of seed with approximately 35 to 45% containing purple pigmentation with the remainder of the seed yellow. Seed yields in Mississippi average 280 to 390 kg/ha in and in California 560 kg/ha. Seed of Bigbee is retained well by the mature plants and is less susceptible to shattering at maturity than crimson clover. Adequate hard seed are produced for reseeding stands. This is another significant difference between Bigbee and unselected berseem clover since unselected berseem clovers are nonreseeding. Seed production of Bigbee should be feasible in the Southeast.

Bigbee was named and released in March 1984 by USDA-ARS and the Mississippi Agricultural and Forage Experiment Station. Generations of seed increase shall be on each group of breeder, foundation and certified. Breeder seed shall be maintained by the USDA-ARS at the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station, MS. Foundation seed will be produced by Foundation Seed Stocks, Mississippi Agric. and For. Exp. Stn., Mississippi State, MS 39762.

An exclusive release for market development and distribution has been negotiated with Funk Seeds International. Limited amounts of certified seed should be available in the fall of 1984.

REGISTRATION OF CP 76-331 SUGARCANE

'CP 76-331', an interspecific hybrid of Saccharum officinarum L., S. spontaneum L., and S. barberi Jeswiet (Reg. no. 67), was selected from seedlings of a cross between cultivars 'CP 65-357' (1) X 'L 65-69' made in 1971 at Canal Point, Florida. CP 76-331 was selected in cooperative tests involving the USDA-ARS, the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station and the American Sugar Cane League. CP 76-331 yields well on both light- and heavy-textured soils in the Louisiana sugarcane belt. In 63 replicated tests in plant, first, and second ratoon cane, CP 76-331 was equal (plant cane) or superior (stubble cane) to CP 65-357, the leading commercial cultivar, in yield of cane (t/ha), ana

Dawson was released on 15 Feb. 1983 to seed growers in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Breeder seed will be maintained by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station. Other information on Dawson is published in Varietal Trials of Farm Crops (Minnesota Rep. 24, Agric. Exp. Stn., St. Paul, MN 55108).

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References and Notes