Ryegrass seeds with heat-induced dormancy were selected from each plant following the second and third selection cycles, through a germination procedure developed by Myers (1). The procedure (3) allowed non-dormant seed to germinate and then be removed with an aspirator. Equal quantities of dormant seed from each plant were composited to provide seed for the next selection cycle. Breeder seed of Florida 80 had 99% summer-dormant seed.

Florida 80 ryegrass was developed for rust-resistance in a reseeding annual ryegrass similar to Kinderlou (2). Florida 80 volunteers nearly as well as Kinderlou and better than Gulf, Magnolia and Florida Rust Resistant annual ryegrasses. Florida 80 has excellent crown rust resistance and normally expresses higher crown rust resistance than the rust-resistant cultivars, Gulf, Magnolia, and Florida Rust Resistant.

Florida 80 is usually several days earlier in maturity than Gulf ryegrass, making it very useful for temporary winter pastures and sod seeding on perennial grass pastures under conditions that require early removal of the cool-season grass. The leaf blades of Florida 80 are erect, thus allowing legumes to be interplanted. A management system for reseeding of both annual legumes and Florida 80 ryegrass on perennial grass pastures is presented in the release circular (3).

Florida 80 ryegrass is adapted to the southern portion of the winter-annual ryegrass-growing area of the southeastern USA. Its resistance to winter freeze damage is comparable to Gulf. The forage yield of Florida 80 is equal to or better than the four main contributors to its germplasm, Kinderlou, Florida Rust Resistant, Gulf, and Magnolia.

Seed classes of Florida 80 are one generation each of breeder, foundation, registered, and certified. Breeder seed will be maintained by the University of Florida, IFAS Agronomy Department, Gainesville, FL 32611. Breeder seed released to seed growers for increase in foundation seed is available from Seed Producers, P.O. Box 309, Greenwood, OK 73076, or (904) 594-4721. International Seeds, Halsey, OR 97348, has been given exclusive rights to produce Florida 80 ryegrass and will also produce foundation classes of seed.


REGISTRATION OF 'PROCON' FIELD PEA

'Procon' field pea (Pisum sativum L.) (Reg. no. 67) was released by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station in 1986. The Procon name is derived from protein concentrate. The high yield and desirable height of Procon meet a need of farmers wanting a homegrown, protein-concentrate feed for livestock.

Procon is a selection from a cross of 'Century' X 'Gastro' made at Rosemount, MN in 1971. Century, the leading field-pea cultivar in North America, is long vined and medium in maturity. Century has white flowers and large, round cream-colored seeds. Gastro, an edible field pea in Europe, is short vined and early in maturity. Gastro has purple flowers and very large, angular, speckled salmon-colored seeds. Century X Gastro F1 plants had long vines, purple flowers, and dark-colored seeds. Procon was derived from a single plant selected in the F4 generation. Yield testing began in the F3, F5 and later generations were included in variety trials and designated as MNCG.

References and Notes