REGISTRATION OF 'TARA' PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

'Tara' perennial ryegrass (Lolium perenne L.) (Reg. no. 109) (PI 510666) is an advanced generation synthetic cultivar selected from the progenies of six clones. It was developed and released in September 1984 by Hubbard Seed and Supply Co., Hubbard, OR. Germplasm received from Lofts Seed, Bound Brook, NJ, and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station was used in the development of this cultivar. Tara originated from a program attempting to select the best germplasm from 3100 seeded turf plots located at North Brunswick and Adelphia, NJ. These turf trials consisted primarily of single-plant progenies of turf-type ryegrasses that had been selected from the best cultivars and breeding populations available. Most of these cultivars and breeding populations had been developed from germplasm collections from old turfs that had undergone various cycles of population improvement for disease resistance, stress tolerance, mowing quality, and turf performance. It was assumed that intense interplant competition under the stress of frequent mowing from old turfs that had undergone various cycles of population improvement for disease resistance, stress tolerance, mowing quality, and turf performance. It was assumed that intense interplant competition under the stress of frequent mowing at 2 cm would tend to further eliminate plants with less persistence and inferior performance under turf maintenance. A total of 3910 tillers were selected from the 56 turf plots showing the best overall performance. After rooting in a greenhouse, the 3910 individual tillers were transferred to a spaced-plant clonal evaluation trial. This trial was planted into an old Kentucky bluegrass (Poa pratensis L.) turf that had been killed with glyphosate [isopropylamine salt of N-(phosphonomethyl)glycine]. The trial was mowed frequently at 4 cm. Polycross progenies of 10 clones selected from this clonal evaluation trial were subsequently evaluated in replicated turf performance tests. One thousand five hundred tillers were selected from progenies of the six clones exhibiting the best performance. These tillers were established in an isolated spaced-plant nursery for production of breeder seed. Unattractive plants were removed from the breeder nursery prior to anthesis. Pedigrees show that most of the parental germplasm of Tara originated from tillers selected from populations derived from or related to 'Yorktown II', 'Barry', 'Loretta', and 'Premier'. BT-1 was the experimental designation of Tara. The first certified seed was produced in western Oregon in 1984.

Tara is a leafy, turf-type perennial ryegrass of medium maturity. It is capable of producing a persistent, moderately dense, attractive, medium low-growing, fine-textured turf with a bright, medium dark green color. Tara has improved mowing qualities, good heat tolerance, and above average summer performance and winterhardiness ratings in New Jersey trials. It has shown good resistance to many races of crown rust (incited by Puccinia coronata Corda) and good resistance to the large brown patch disease (caused by Rhizoctonia solani Kuhn). Tara has also shown good resistance to the winter netblotch disease (caused by Drechslera dictyoides f. graminicola) and to the large brown patch disease (caused by Rhizoctonia solani Kuhn). Tara has excellent seedling vigor and the ability to become established and grow on a wide range of soils. It has excellent persistence and inferior performance under turf maintenance. A total of 3910 tillers were selected from the 56 turf plots showing the best overall performance. After rooting in a greenhouse, the 3910 individual tillers were transferred to a spaced-plant clonal evaluation trial. This trial was planted into an old Kentucky bluegrass (Poa pratensis L.) turf that had been killed with glyphosate [isopropylamine salt of N-(phosphonomethyl)glycine]. The trial was mowed frequently at 4 cm. Polycross progenies of 10 clones selected from this clonal evaluation trial were subsequently evaluated in replicated turf performance tests. One thousand five hundred tillers were selected from progenies of the six clones exhibiting the best performance. These tillers were established in an isolated spaced-plant nursery for production of breeder seed. Unattractive plants were removed from the breeder nursery prior to anthesis. Pedigrees show that most of the parental germplasm of Tara originated from tillers selected from populations derived from or related to 'Yorktown II', 'Barry', 'Loretta', and 'Premier'. BT-1 was the experimental designation of Tara. The first certified seed was produced in western Oregon in 1984.

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