REGISTRATION OF 'SMITH' SWEET SORGHUM

'SMITH' is a sweet sorghum [Sorghum bicolor (L.) Moench], (Reg. no. 127) (PI 511355) cultivar developed for sucrose and biomass energy production in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. The cultivar was released in March 1987 through the cooperative research programs of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and the USDA-ARS. Smith was selected in 1977 from the F1 population of the cross, MN 4004 X Mer. 61-11. The pedigree method of selection was used to advance the progeny through the F7 generation. The cultivar was evaluated as Mer. 81-2 from 1982 to 1986. Smith is named in honor of Mr. B. Ashby Smith, a research chemist in the USDA-ARS Food Crops Utilization Unit, was used to advance the progeny through the F7 generation.

Anthesis of Smith occurs approximately 2 to 4 wk later than 'Wray' and is considered a late-season cultivar. It is similar in height to Wray ranging from 2.5 to 2.7 m (genetically one-dwarf). Unlike Wray, Smith possesses a nontrapping barrel. Its juice quality is lower than that of Wray; however, yields of millable stalks and sucrose per hectare are approximately 25 and 10% greater, respectively. In addition, if biomass energy is desired, the potential grain yield of Smith is greater than that of Wray.

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References and Notes
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