REGISTRATION OF CROP CULTIVARS

REGISTRATION OF 'NUMEX SAHARA'
BERMUDAGRASS

'Numex Sahara' bermudagrass, *Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers., (Reg. no. 18, PI 531090) was developed by the New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station. It was tested under the experimental designation NM S-1 and released in February 1987.

Numex Sahara, a seed-propagated cultivar, was developed for shorter internode length, greater turf density and increased green summer color. Parent clones were selected for high seed production and turf quality.

Numex Sahara is a medium-textured turfgrass cultivar similar to 'Common'. However, stem internode length, leaf length and plant height were found to be 19, 31, and 45% less, respectively, when compared to Common at Las Cruces, NM. Numex Sahara has received higher turfgrass quality ratings than the other two seed-propagated bermudagrass cultivars, Common and 'Guymon', in the National Bermudagrass Test. Numex Sahara has been tested and is intended for use as a general purpose turfgrass for the southern part of the USA.

Parentage of Numex Sahara consists of eight clones selected on the basis of polycross progeny performance. These eight clones were intercrossed and subjected to two cycles of recurrent phenotypic selection. Breeder seed was produced by intercrossing 220 of the most desirable plants. Seed increase of Numex Sahara is on a three-generation basis: breeder, foundation and certified. Seed will be produced in Arizona and California. The multiplication and distribution of all classes of seed will be handled by Farmers Marketing Corporation, P.O. Box 60578, Phoenix, AZ 85082-0578. U.S. Plant Variety Protection Certificate no. 8800010 has been granted on Numex Sahara.

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References and Notes

1. Dep. of Agronomy and Horticulture, New Mexico State Univ., Las Cruces, NM 88003-0003. Numex Sahara was developed with partial financial support from the U.S. Golf Assoc. and the GolfCourse Superintendents Assoc. of Am. through the USGA Turfgrass Res. Committee. Journal article no. 1436. Registration by CSA. Accepted 28 Feb. 1989.

The author gratefully acknowledges the assistance of former students M.A. Smith, presently Breeder, Pioneer Hi-Bred, 1040 Settler, Connell, WA 99326; R.E. Gausson, presently Asst. Prof., Horticulture Dep., Kansas State Univ., Manhattan, KS 66506; D.S. Wofford, presently Asst. Prof., Agronomy Dep., Univ. of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611; J.P. Klingenberg, presently Univ. of Arizona, Maricopa, AZ 85239; and C.A. Rodgers, presently Univ. of Arizona, Maricopa, AZ 85239.