clones were selected on the basis of clonal and polycross progeny performance for forage and seed yield over several years at Webster City, IA. Parental clones also were evaluated several times over several years for animal palatability, alkaloid content, and seed-shattering resistance. Venture is similar in forage yield and leaf-disease resistance to ‘Rise’, Vantage, and Flare. It exhibits excellent winter hardiness and persistence and responds to best management practices. In addition to its improved shattering resistance, which enhances seed quality, Venture shows good seedling vigor and stand establishment ability.

Venture is the same to 1 d earlier in bloom date than Vantage and 1 to 2 d earlier than Rise under Iowa conditions. Growth habit and panicle color are similar to Vantage and Rise. Plant height averages up to 8 cm shorter than Vantage and 15 cm shorter than Rise and similar to ‘Palaton’. Venture differs from Palaton in seed protein structure and has averaged somewhat higher in crude fiber (CF), acid-detergent fiber (ADF), and neutral-detergent fiber (NDF) in second- and third-cut forage.

Venture is superior to Rise, Vantage, and Flare in seed yield and seed-holding capacity. It also is lower in alkaloid content, contains only gramine and no tryptamine and carboline, which cause digestive upsets in cattle and sheep, and promises to give increased palatability and animal gains from its forage (1). It is adapted for forage and conservation use in the northern half of the continental USA and in southern Canada.

Breeder seed of Venture was produced on replicated ramets of the parental clones in isolation by Land O’ Lakes, Inc. at Webster City, IA. Breeder seed is maintained in cold storage and parental clones are being maintained by Land O’ Lakes, Inc. Foundation seed fields are planted with breeder seed in Iowa with a limit of 4 harvest yr. Certified seed fields are planted only with foundation seed in the northern USA. Only one generation each of breeder, foundation, and certified seed is permitted.

Venture was accepted by the Grass Variety Review Board in October 1983. U.S. Plant Variety Protection Certificate no. 8600060 has been issued for Venture reed canarygrass.

R.R. Kalton,* P. Richardson, and J. Shields (2)

References and Notes

2. Land O’ Lakes Research Farm. R.R. 2, Webster City, IA 50595. Registration by CSSA. Accepted 28 February 1989. *Corresponding author.

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