REGISTRATION OF ‘GINGER’ KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS

‘GINGER’ Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis* L.) (Reg. no. 38, PI 535819) was developed and released December 1988. The cultivar originated from germplasm introduced from western Europe at approximately 45°N lat. It was tested experimentally as ID-61 as spaced plants and/or solid seedings for forage at Moscow, ID at 46°43’N lat. in Palouse-latches (fine-silty, mixed, mesic Pachic Ultic Haploxeroll) silt loam soils. The area has 56 cm of annual precipitation with little during mid-July to mid-September, which is the seed maturity season. Four generations of maternal live selection from the original germplasm were used to develop Ginger. During each generation, approximately 100 plants were examined for erect plant type, various botanical characteristics, large uniform panicles, disease tolerance, and acceptable seed production. Twenty plants were selected for testing each succeeding generation. The cultivar has 72 chromosomes (2n = 72).

Ginger is an aggressive rhizomatous, perennial forage-type plant with leaf width and length nearly one-third to twice that of other Kentucky bluegrass cultivars. Culms are upright (27 cm), strong and tolerant to lodging, leaves are long (125 mm), wide (6.6 mm), dark green color, and retain greenness into the advance stages of seed ripening. Forage production under intense management condition of irrigation for six cuttings annually showed Ginger to be higher in forage production than ‘Park’, ‘Troy’, and ‘Argyle’ bluegrasses and ‘Manchar’ smooth bromegrass (*Bromus inermis* Leyss.), all common grasses grown in the area. Ginger starts spring green growth 3 wk or more earlier than the above cultivars and all other bluegrass cultivars in National Kentucky Bluegrass Tests. Tiller regrowth under forage conditions is slightly more rapid than those at each harvest. Ginger withstood close frequent clipping in dense stands than did Manchar smooth bromegrass for three harvest seasons.

Mature plants at seed harvest are 87.0 cm tall with long (16.2 cm), erect pyramidal panicles becoming golden color during advance stages of seed maturity. Seeds are large (4862 mg/10,000 seeds), which are nearly twice that observed with several other bluegrasses. Seedling emergence and seedling vigor are equal or superior to Argyle. Seed maturity at harvest is mid-July, which is 7 to 10 d more than other early maturing bluegrasses in the Northwest. Seed production (424 kg/ha) is less than ‘Alene’ (620 kg/ha) and Argyle (736 kg/ha) in Idaho and eastern Washington bluegrass seed producing areas. Seed shattering has been minor during proper harvest (Ensign, 1987; Ensign et al., 1989).

Ginger is moderately tolerant to major foliar diseases under semi-arid test conditions. On a scale of 1 = susceptible to 9 = resistant, Ginger had a score of 5 for powdery mildew, caused by *Erysiphe graminis* DC; 7 for stem rust, caused by *Puccinia recondita* Rob. ex. Desm.; 5 for stem rust, caused by *Puccinia graminis* Pers. subsp. graminicola Urban; 5 for leaf spot, caused by *Drechslera poae* Bundys-Shoem; and 6 classes limited to breeder, foundation, and States Plant Variety Protection is pending.

References and Notes


REGISTRATION OF ‘RONDE’ KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS

‘RONDE’ Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis* L.) (Reg. no. 39, PI 535820) was developed by the author from five generations of maternal line selection in germplasm from southcentral Europe at approximately 40°N lat. as ID-36. The selections were made at Moscow, ID at 46°43’ N lat. in Palouse-latches (fine-silty, mixed, mesic Pachic Ultic Haploxeroll) silt loam nonirrigated soils. The area has 56 cm of annual precipitation with little during June and July when precipitation is low. Many new Kentucky bluegrass fields are expected to grow well in the major Kentucky bluegrass growing area, but 80 to 90% of the Kentucky bluegrass seed in the USA is also produced in the Idaho and eastern Washington is largely a *Poa pratensis* L. (Reg. no. 39, PI 535819) was developed and released December 1988. The cultivar has 72 chromosomes (2n = 72).

Ronde is an aggressive rhizomatous, perennial forage-type plant with leaf width and length nearly one-third to twice that of other Kentucky bluegrass cultivars. Culms are upright (27 cm), strong and tolerant to lodging, leaves are long (125 mm), wide (6.6 mm), dark green color, and retain greenness into the advance stages of seed ripening. Forage production under intense management condition of irrigation for six cuttings annually showed Ginger to be higher in forage production than ‘Park’, ‘Troy’, and ‘Argyle’ bluegrasses and ‘Manchar’ smooth bromegrass (*Bromus inermis* Leyss.), all common grasses grown in the area. Ginger starts spring green growth 3 wk or more earlier than the above cultivars and all other bluegrass cultivars in National Kentucky Bluegrass Tests. Tiller regrowth under forage conditions is slightly more rapid than those at each harvest. Ginger withstood close frequent clipping in dense stands than did Manchar smooth bromegrass for three harvest seasons.

Mature plants at seed harvest are 87.0 cm tall with long (16.2 cm), erect pyramidal panicles becoming golden color during advance stages of seed maturity. Seeds are large (4862 mg/10,000 seeds), which are nearly twice that observed with several other bluegrasses. Seedling emergence and seedling vigor are equal or superior to Argyle. Seed maturity at harvest is mid-July, which is 7 to 10 d more than other early maturing bluegrasses in the Northwest. Seed production (424 kg/ha) is less than ‘Alene’ (620 kg/ha) and Argyle (736 kg/ha) in Idaho and eastern Washington bluegrass seed producing areas. Seed shattering has been minor during proper harvest (Ensign, 1987; Ensign et al., 1989).

Ginger is moderately tolerant to major foliar diseases under semi-arid test conditions. On a scale of 1 = susceptible to 9 = resistant, Ginger had a score of 5 for powdery mildew, caused by *Erysiphe graminis* DC; 7 for stem rust, caused by *Puccinia recondita* Rob. ex. Desm.; 5 for stem rust, caused by *Puccinia graminis* Pers. subsp. graminicola Urban; 5 for leaf spot, caused by *Drechslera poae* Bundys-Shoem; and 6 classes limited to breeder, foundation, and States Plant Variety Protection is pending.

References and Notes