REGISTRATION OF 'FLEET' MEADOW BROMEGRASS

'FLEET' meadow bromegrass (Bromus riparius Rehm.) (Canada Reg. no. 2778) (Reg. No. 17, PI 536012) was developed by the Agriculture Canada Research Station, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada and released in 1987.

Fleet was formed as a synthetic of 67 plants selected from eight introductions from Eurasian sources and given the Saskatoon experimental designation S-9043. Twenty-two plants were from USSR 'Krasnodarski VIR K27534', 13 from 'Krasnodarski 8', 7 from 'Regar', and the remainder from French and Hungarian botanical garden sources. Parent strains showed chromosome numbers ranging from $2n = 65$ to 74, were similar in growth habit, and were interfertile in controlled crosses. Selection was made in 2- and 3-yr old spaced-plant nurseries for plants with good seed production, reduced awn development, and reduced shattering.

Fleet is similar to Regar is having a restricted creeping root habit and abundant basal leaves. Leaves, stems, and seed have varying degrees of pubescence as has Regar. Regrowth following clipping or grazing is rapid as in Regar and much superior to that of smooth bromegrass (B. inermis Leyss.). Fall greenness (fall frost resistance) of herbage is similar to that of Regar and superior to that of smooth bromegrass.

Yields in eight pasture clipping tests were equivalent to those of Regar. Yields were similar to those of 'Carlton' smooth bromegrass at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and superior to those of Carlton under cooler, moister conditions at Lacombe, Alberta. Seed yields in six tests were 534 kg ha$^{-1}$ compared to 301 kg ha$^{-1}$ for Regar and 506 kg ha$^{-1}$ for Carlton smooth bromegrass. In vitro digestibility of Fleet was 642 g kg$^{-1}$ compared to 634 g kg$^{-1}$ for Regar and 646 g kg$^{-1}$ for Carlton.

The anticipated areas of use are the cool, moist areas of northern and western Canadian Prairies and adjacent States. Production also is good in drier areas with irrigation. Main use will be for pasture rather than for hay with regrowth for pasture is anticipated.

Breeder seed will be maintained at the Agriculture Canada Research Station, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and small amounts of seed may be obtained from this source. Breeder seed will be increased through a single generation of foundation to certified seed. The SeCan Association, 512-885 Meadowlands Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2C 3N2, will be the distributor of breeder seed using a general type of distribution to its members.

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References and Notes

1. Agric. Canada Res. Stn., 107 Science Crescent, Saskatoon, Canada, S7N 0X2. Registration by CSSA. Accepted 3 February 1987. Corresponding author.

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