smooth to slight reticulation. It has a 70% average meat content. Seeds are tan in color, with a 100-seed mass of 35 g; they contain an average 51% oil and 21% protein. Oil quality showed an oleic/linoleic fatty acid ratio of 1.44 (2).

References and Notes


REGISTRATION OF 'OMEGA II' PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

'OMEGA II' PERENNIAL RYEGRASS (Lolium perenne L.) (Reg. no. CV-147, PI 537566) was developed by the plant breeders of Pure-Seed Testing of Hubbard, OR. It was released September 1984 by Turf-Seed of Hubbard, OR.

Omega II is an improved turf-type perennial ryegrass cultivar resulting from three cycles of phenotypic recurrent selection. Two stem rust (caused by Puccinia graminis Pers.:Pers.) resistant perennial ryegrasses collected from old turf areas in St. Louis, MO, and Washington, DC, were used as donor parents in a modified backcrossing program with selected clones derived from 'Omega' perennial ryegrass. Populations from these crosses were cycled for dark green color, improved seed production and resistance to crown rust (caused by Puccinia coronata Corda), stem rust, and net blotch (caused by Drechslera dictyoides f. sp. perenne (Drechsler) Shoem.). Each cycle was followed by progeny testing in seedbed turf trials to evaluate turf performance, mowing quality, and disease resistance. Nine attractive clones were selected as the parents of Omega II. The experimental designation was 20M or OMII. The first certified seed was produced in Oregon in 1984.

Omega II is an improved turf-type perennial ryegrass cultivar with medium-early maturity (3 d later than 'Pennline') and an attractive dark green color. It is capable of forming a fine-leaved turf that does not become excessively stemmy in late spring (as early-maturing cultivars do) and results in good spring density. Omega II has very good resistance to stem and crown rusts and improved resistance to brown patch (caused by Rhizoctonia solani Kühn), red thread (caused by Laetisaria fuciformis (McAlpine) Burtisal) and fusarium patch (caused by Microdochium nivale (Fr.) Samuels & I.C. Hallett). In many locations across the USA where perennial ryegrasses are adapted, Omega II has given persistent, high-quality turf with good wear tolerance. In overseeding trials in the southern USA Omega II's excellent seedling vigor, dark green color, and good density contributed to its outstanding performance in the national perennial ryegrass overseeding trial in 1984. Omega II was the top cultivar for turf quality at 10 locations. Omega II was also rated high for color, seedling vigor, fall density, percent living ground cover in spring, wear tolerance, and percent bermodagrass (Cynodon spp.) during spring transition (1).

Omega II can be used for home lawns, athletic fields, and golf course tees, fairways, and cart paths. Omega II is frequently used in blends with other improved turf-type perennial ryegrasses or in mixtures with other cool-season species.

Breeder seed of Omega II is produced by Pure-Seed Testing. Propagation is limited to two generations of increase from breeder seed, and one generation each of foundation and certified.

United States Plant Variety Protection Certificate no. 8400141 was issued 27 Sept. 1985 for Omega II perennial ryegrass.

C. A. ROSE-FRICKER* AND W. A. MEYER (2)

References and Notes
2. C.A. Rose-Fricker and W.A. Meyer, Pure-Seed Testing, 3057 G. St., Hubbard, OR 97032. Appreciation is expressed to all participants in the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program for their contributions in the evaluation of Omega II perennial ryegrass. Registration by CSSA. Accepted 31 Mar. 1991. *Corresponding author.