REGISTRATION OF 'WL 225' ALFALFA

'WL 225' ALFALFA (Medicago saliva L.) (Reg. no. CV-167, PI 550722) was developed by W-L Research, Inc. This cultivar was tested under the experimental designation 84-11 and released in September 1987.

WL 225 is a synthetic variety composed of 198 plants selected for resistance to verticillium wilt (caused by Verticillium albo-atrum Reinke & Berthier), following one cycle each of phenotypic recurrent selection for resistance to phytophthora root rot (caused by Phytophthora megasperma Drechs. f. sp. medicaginis T. Kuan & D.C. Erwin) and verticillium wilt. The original population represented near equal germplasm contributions from each of five experimental lines identified on the basis of high forage yield potential and superior persistence. Plants in the five experimental lines were selected after screening for resistance to one or more of the following: bacterial wilt [caused by Clavibacter michiganense subsp. insidiosum (McCulloch) Davis et al., 1984], fusarium wilt [caused by Fusarium oxysporum Schlechtend.; Fr. f. sp. medicaginis (J.L. Weimer) W.C. Snyder & H.N. Hans.], anthracnose (Race 1) (caused by Colletotrichum trifolii Bain & Essary), stem nematode [Ditylenchus dipsaci (Kuhn) Filipjev], spotted alfalfa aphid [Theroioaphis maculata (Buckton)], and pea aphid [Acrithosiphon pisum (Harris)]. Source material traces primarily to 'Vernal', 'Ranger', 'Grimm', and 'Vertus', with lesser contributions from 'Beltsville 3 ANR 4', 'Travois', 'WL 218', 'WL 219', 'WL 307', and 'WL 309'.

The fall dormancy of WL 225 is similar to that of Vernal. WL 225 has high resistance to bacterial wilt, fusarium wilt, and phytophthora root rot; resistance to verticillium wilt, pea aphid, and spotted alfalfa aphid; moderate resistance to anthracnose and northern root-knot nematode (Meloidogyne hapla Chitwood); and low resistance to stem nematode. WL 225 is a fall-dormant cultivar adapted for forage use in the northwestern, midwestern, and northeastern regions of the USA. Approximately 94% of the flowers are purple to dark purple in color, =5% blue and blue variegated, and =1% yellow, with a trace of cream flowers.

One generation each of breeder (Syn 1), foundation (Syn 2), and certified (Syn 3) seed is recognized. Breeder seed was produced under cage isolation at Warden, WA. Sufficient foundation seed was produced at Nampa, ID, for the life of the variety. One generation each of breeder (Syn 1), foundation (Syn 2), and certified (Syn 3) seed is recognized. Breeder seed was produced under cage isolation at Warden, WA. Sufficient foundation seed was produced at Nampa, ID, for the life of the variety. One generation each of breeder (Syn 1), foundation (Syn 2), and certified (Syn 3) seed is recognized. Breeder seed was produced under cage isolation at Warden, WA. Sufficient foundation seed was produced at Nampa, ID, for the life of the variety.