REGISTRATION OF 'WL 225' ALFALFA

'WL 225' ALFALFA (Medicago sativa 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-astrum Reineck & Berthier), following one cycle 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 (McCluskey) 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 (Kühn) Filipjev), spotted alfalfa aphid (Acerthosiphon pisum (Harris)); resistance to verticillium wilt, anthracnose, spotted alfalfa aphid (Therioaphis maculata (Buckton)), and pea aphid (Acrhythosiphon pisum (Harris)). Source material traces primarily to ‘Vernal’, ‘Ranger’, ‘Grimm’, and ‘Vertus’, with lesser contribution from ‘Ranger’ (5%).

The fall dormancy of WL 225 is similar to that of Vernal. WL 225 has high resistance to bacterial wilt (caused by Clavibacter michiganense subsp. insidiosum (McCluskey) Davis et al., 1984), fusarium wilt (caused by Fusarium oxysporum Schlechtend.: Fr. f. sp. medicaginis (J.L. Weimer) W.C. Snyder & H.N. Hans.), phytophthora root rot, and pea aphid (Acrhythosiphon pisum (Harris)); resistance to verticillium wilt, anthracnose, spotted alfalfa aphid (Therioaphis maculata (Buckton)), and stem nematode; and moderate resistance to northern root-nematode (Meloidogyne hapla Chitwood). WL 317 is a fall-dormant cultivar adapted for forage use in the northwestern, midwestern, and northeastern regions of the USA. Approximately 99% of the flowers are purple to dark purple in color, and ≈1% blue and blue variegated.

One generation of breeder (Syn 1) and two generations each of foundation (Syn 2 or 3) and certified (Syn 3) seed can be recognized. Breeder seed was produced under cage isolation at Warden, WA. Sufficient foundation seed was produced at Warden, WA, for the life of the cultivar. Maximums of 3 and 5 yr are permitted on fields producing foundation and certified seed, respectively. In 1989, WL 317 received a favorable review from the National Alfalfa Variety Review Board. Plant Variety Protection Certificate 8900266 was granted on 9 July 1990.

J. L. KUGLER, D. E. HUSET, F. L. BEDARD, AND M. A. PETERSON* (1)

References and Notes
