Registration of ‘Olympic II’ Tall Fescue

‘OLYMPIC II’ TALL FESCUE (Festuca arundinacea Schreb.) (Reg. no. CV-46, PI 539934, was developed by Pure-Seed Testing, Inc., of Hubbard, OR, and is being marketed by Turf Seed, Inc., of Hubbard, OR. Olympic II had the experimental designation PST-50L. Olympic II was released by Turf Seed in September 1990 and the first certified seed was produced and available for sale the same year. Olympic II was released as an improved version of ‘Olympic’, with better turf performance and high seed yield.

Olympic II is an advanced generation cultivar resulting from three cycles of recurrent selection. Thirteen progeny were selected from Olympic tall fescue for improved turf quality, darker green color, density, and resistance to brown patch (caused by Rhizoctonia solani Kühn) from single-plant progeny evaluation turf trials in Oregon and New Jersey. A nursery of 1950 seedlings from these clones were evaluated for high seed head number, dark green color, and freedom from any disease symptoms at maturity. Germlasm from old turf areas in New Jersey and selections from ‘Apache’, ‘Monarch’, Olympic and ‘Thunderbird’ tall fescues were moved into the nursery and pollinated by the superior Olympic plants. Seed was harvested from these new sources of germplasm separate from the Olympic plants. Progenies from these crosses were planted in alternating rows with seed from the Olympic selections in a nursery of 2752 plants in Oregon. Selection criteria for the final cycle of selection were dark green color, vigorous appearance, and high seed head number. Plants with the least amount of powdery mildew (caused by Erysiphe graminis DC.), crown rust (caused by Puccinia coronata Corda), stem rust (caused by P. graminis Pers.:Pers.), and net blotch [caused by Rhizoctonia solani] were eliminated.

The third period of selection was initiated with seed from the best 15 seed-yielding plants out of fifteen plants called 5BB. In 1984, 20 plants were selected for breeding. Breeder seed and one generation of foundation and certified seed were produced. In 1985, Progenies from these clones were evaluated for high seed head number, dark green color, and freedom from any disease symptoms at maturity. Germplasm from old turf areas in New Jersey and selections from ‘Apache’, ‘Monarch’, Olympic and ‘Thunderbird’ tall fescues were moved into the nursery and pollinated by the superior Olympic plants. Seed was harvested from these new sources of germplasm separate from the Olympic plants. Progenies from these crosses were planted in alternating rows with seed from the Olympic selections in a nursery of 2752 plants in Oregon. Selection criteria for the final cycle of selection were dark green color, vigorous appearance, and high seed head number. Plants with the least amount of powdery mildew (caused by Erysiphe graminis DC.), crown rust (caused by Puccinia coronata Corda), stem rust (caused by P. graminis Pers.:Pers.), and net blotch [caused by Rhizoctonia solani] were eliminated.

Six of the parents trace to Olympic, 7 trace to Apache, and 21 trace to New Jersey germplasm as maternal parents. Olympic II has a lower mature plant height which results in reduced vertical growth in turf, requiring less mowing. It has good heat, cold, shade, and wear tolerance, and better resistance to brown patch, and high seed yields. Olympic II is an improved version of Olympic with better turf quality, darker green color, better resistance to brown patch, and high seed yields. Olympic II has a lower mature plant height which results in reduced vertical growth in turf, requiring less mowing. Olympic II has good heat, cold, shade, and wear tolerance, and better resistance to brown patch, and high seed yields. Olympic II is an improved version of Olympic with better turf quality, darker green color, better resistance to brown patch, and high seed yields.

Olympic II has been issued for Silverado tall fescue. Olympic II was released by Turf Seed, Inc., of Hubbard, OR. Olympic II had the experimental designation PST-50L. Olympic II was released by Turf Seed in December 1989 and the first certified seed was produced and available for sale the same year. Olympic II was released as an improved version of ‘Olympic’, with better turf performance and high seed yield.

Breeder seed of Olympic II is produced by Pure-Seed Testing, Inc. Propagation is limited to two generations of increase, from breeder seed, one generation each of foundation and certified seed. U.S. Plant Variety Protection Certificate no. 8800130 has been issued for Olympic II tall fescue.

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References and Notes

1. Pure-Seed Testing, Inc., P.O. Box 250 Hubbard, OR. Association is expressed to all participants in the National Evaluation Program for their contributions to the evaluation and registration by CSSA. Accepted 30 June 1992.

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Registration of ‘Silverado’ Tall Fescue

‘SILVERADO’ TALL FESCUE (Festuca arundinacea Schreb.) (Reg. no. CV-47, PI 548795) was developed by Pure-Seed Testing, Inc., of Hubbard, OR, and is marketed by Turf Seed, Inc., of Hubbard, OR.

PST-5BL was the experimental designation of Silverado. Silverado was released by Turf Seed in December 1989 and the first certified seed was produced and available for sale the same year. Silverado was released as an improved tall fescue turf-type cultivar with a dwarf growth habit.

Silverado is an advanced-generation cultivar resulting from four cycles of phenotypic recurrent selection. Germplasm from Georgia, New Jersey, Alabama, and the cultivar Olympic was used to initiate a population of 1600 progeny from a synthetic germplasm base. Selection criteria for the first cycle of recurrent selection in 1986, with a nursery of 2310 plants. Three hundred plants were selected as the parents of Olympic II tall fescue. Silverado is a late-maturing, low-growing cultivar with a heading date (50% of panicles emerged) 16 d later than ‘Kentucky 31’. Silverado is a dwarf turf-type tall fescue with a mature plant height 41 cm shorter than Kentucky-31 and 31 cm shorter than Olympic. Silverado has good heat, cold, shade, and wear tolerance, and it has high turf quality in regions where tall fescues are adapted, as well as droughty, or shady conditions. Silverado is adapted to crown rust and leaf spot.

Breeder seed of Silverado is produced by Pure-Seed Testing, Inc. Propagation is limited to two generations of increase, from breeder seed, one generation each of foundation and certified seed. U.S. Plant Variety Protection Certificate no. 8800130 has been issued for Silverado tall fescue.