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 Kiihn) 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. 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 2750 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 Drechslera dictyoides (Drechs.) Shoemaker; syn. Helminthosporium dictyoides Drechs.] were selected. One hundred and one plants were selected as the parents of Olympic II in 1986, with six of the parents trace to Olympic, 7 trace to Apache, 21 trace to New Jersey germplasm as maternal parents.

Olympic II is an improved version of ‘Olympic’ with better turf quality, darker green color, better resistance to brown patch, and higher seed yields. Olympic II has a lower mature plant height when compared to ‘Kentucky 31’. Olympic II has vertical growth in turf, requiring less mowing. Olympic II has good heat, cold, shade, and wear tolerance, and rated highly in trials across the USA. Olympic II has a moderately low level of endophyte (Acremonium coenophialum Morgan-Jones & Gams).

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. U.S. Plant Variety Protection Certificate no. 9000134 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. Appreciation is expressed to all participants in the Crop Evaluation Program for their contributions to the Olympic II Registration by CSSA. Accepted 30 June 1993.

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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 population from breeder seed and one generation each of foundation and certified. U.S. Plant Variety Protection Certificate no. 8800130 was issued for Silverado tall fescue.

Silverado is a late-maturing, low-growing, turf-type tall fescue 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 Olympic and 31 cm shorter than Olympic. Silverado has a fine-textured, dense, dark blue-green turf with reduced vertical growth in turf, requiring less mowing. Silverado has high turf quality ratings in arid regions where tall fescues are adapted, as well as in cold, hot, droughty, or shady conditions. Silverado has better resistance 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. U.S. Plant Variety Protection Certificate no. 9000134 has been issued for Silverado tall fescue.