Registration of ‘Monarch’ Tall Fescue

‘MONARCH’ TALL FESCUE (Festuca anindinacea Schreb.) (Reg. no. CV-48, PI 548796) was developed by Pure-Seed Testing, Inc., in cooperation with the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. The experimental designation for Monarch was Pure-Seed 5BB. Monarch was released and first made available for sale in September 1987 by Turf-Seed, Inc. Monarch was released as an improved, medium maturing turf-type tall fescue with a low growth habit.

Monarch is an advanced-generation cultivar resulting from three cycles of recurrent selection. Selections from old turf areas in Georgia and New Jersey were used with selections from Olympic as the original parents of Monarch. These plants were allowed to interpollinate in isolation. Within each cycle, seedlings from these crosses were selected for resistance to net blotch [caused by Drechslera dictyoides (Drechs.) Shoemaker; syn. Helminthosporium dictyoides Drechs.], crown rust (caused by Puccinia coronata Corda f. sp. festucae), dark blue-green color, low growth habit, and improved seed yield. Each cycle was followed by progeny testing in turf trials in Oregon and New Jersey. Fifty-eight clones were selected as the parents of Monarch.

Monarch tall fescue produces an attractive low-growing, dark green turf with improved density and a finer leaf texture. Monarch has shown good heat and drought tolerance in arid regions such as California and has rated high compared to most varieties in cold and shady areas. Turfgrass quality ratings at 33 locations in the USA show Monarch performs well in the transition zone (defined as an area stretching from Maryland and Virginia across to Northern Texas) of the USA where tall fescues are adapted. Improved resistance to brown patch (caused by Zoctonia solani Kühn) and fusarium patch [caused by Cochliomyces camae (Ces. ex Sacc.) W. Gams & E. Muller] has been reported at some locations. Monarch is recommended for use in home lawns, parks, athletic fields, golf courses, roughs, and industrial sites.

Breeder seed of Monarch is produced by Pure-Seed Testing, Inc., Hubbard, OR. Propagation is limited to two generations of increase from breeder seed and one generation of foundation and certified. U.S. Plant Variety Protection Certificate no. 8700121 has been issued for Monarch tall fescue.

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References and Notes

1. Pure-Seed Testing, Inc., P.O. Box 250 Hubbard, OR. Propagation is limited to two generations of increase from breeder seed and one generation of foundation and certified. U.S. Plant Variety Protection Certificate no. 8700121 has been issued for Monarch tall fescue. Registration by CSSA. Accepted 30 June 1992. Corresponding author.

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Registration of ‘Maximize’ Tall Fescue

‘MAXIMIZE’ TALL FESCUE (Festuca arundinacea Schreb.) (Reg. no. CV-49, PI 549115) was developed by Pure-Seed Testing, Inc., of Hubbard, OR, and Van der Have of Rilland, in the Netherlands. FA-293 was the experimental designation of Maximize. Maximize was released by Turf Seed, Inc., in the fall of 1988 and the first certified seed was produced and available for sale the same year. Maximize was released as an improved forage cultivar with no endophyte (Acremonium coenophialum Morgan-Jones & Gams).

Maximize is an advanced-generation synthetic forage cultivar resulting from two generations of phenotypic recurrent selection. Seed from hundreds of ecotypes were collected in southeast France in 1976. These were evaluated in a single spaced-plant trial for disease resistance, forage yield, and soft leaves in the Netherlands. The best matching plants were selected, cloned and subsequently used to create several synthetics in polycross blocks. In 1979, the synthetics were observed and those with a high vertical growth rate after establishment and high forage density, resulting in improved forage yields. They ranged highly in forage yield trials in Wisconsin, Iowa as well as in France, Canada and the Netherlands. Maximize has above average resistance to crown rust (Puccinia coronata Corda) and leaf spot (caused by dictyoides (Drechs.) Shoemaker; syn. Helminthosporium dictyoides Drechs.). Maximize is recommended for use in the transition zone (the area from Maryland and Virginia to northern Texas), west, northcentral and northeastern USA; and southern Canada where forage tall fescues are adapted.

Breeder seed of Maximize is produced by Pure-Seed Testing, Inc. Propagation is limited to two generations of increase from breeder seed and one generation of foundation and certified. U.S. Plant Variety Protection Certificate no. 8800123 has been issued for Maximize tall fescue.

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