Registration of ‘Bighorn’ Sheep Fescue

‘BIGHORN’ SHEEP FESCUE (Festuca ovina) (Reg. no. CV-50, PI 549274) was developed by Pure-Seed Testing, Inc. Bighorn was tested under the experimental codes FOF-WC and Pure-Seed 4LS. Bighorn was released by Turf-Seed, Inc., in August 1987. The first certified seed was produced in western Oregon in 1988. Bighorn was released as an improved sheep fescue for turf quality and color uniformity.

Bighorn is an advanced-generation cultivar resulting from three cycles of phenotypic recurrent selection. Sheep fescue germplasm was collected from old turf areas in New Jersey and used to establish a spaced-plant nursery of 46 plants in Oregon. Selection criteria for these plants were overall attractiveness, a powdery blue color, early maturity, leafy rather than wiry types, and seed head formation. Single-plant progeny turf trials were also evaluated for improved mowing quality, winter color, and overall turf performance. Nine plants were selected from these evaluations. Seed from isolated nurseries of these nine plants was used to initiate two more cycles of recurrent selection for the above traits. Breeder seed of Bighorn was produced in an isolated, spaced-plant nursery of the 300 plants selected as the parents of Bighorn sheep fescue.

Bighorn is a unique low-growing, turf-type sheep fescue capable of producing an attractive, dense, fine-textured turf with a powder blue color. Bighorn has shown improved resistance to fusarium patch [caused by Microdochium nivale (Fr.) Samuels & I.C. Hallett; syn. Gerlachia nivale (Ces. ex Sacc.) W. Gams & E. Muller], net blotch [caused by Sclerotinia homeocarpa F.T. Bennett], dollar spot [caused by Helminthosporium dictyoides (Drechslera) Shoemaker f. sp. dictyoides Drechs.], and red thread [caused by Fusarium roseum Link: Fr.]. It performs well in wildflower mixtures and is aggressive. Bighorn performs best in temperate climates and fine fescues are well adapted.

Seed propagation of Bighorn is restricted to two generations of increase from breeder seed, one each of foundation and certified. Breeder seed is produced and marketed by Pure-Seed Testing. U.S. Plant Variety Protection Certificate no. 8800064 was issued for Bighorn on 31 May 1988.

C. A. ROSE-FRICKER* AND W. A. MEYER

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, one each of foundation and certified. Breeder seed is produced by Pure-Seed Testing. U.S. Plant Variety Protection Certificate no. 8900143 has been made available for Bighorn.


Registration of ‘Charger’ Perennial Ryegrass

‘CHARGER’ PERENNIAL RYEGRASS (Lolium perenne L.) (Reg. no. CV-152, PI 552529) was developed by Pure-Seed Testing, Inc., of Hubbard, OR. and is being marketed by Turf Seed, Inc., of Hubbard, OR. The first foundation seed was produced in western Oregon in 1989. Charger was released by Turf Seed in September 1990 and the first certified seed was produced and made available for sale the same year.

Charger is an advanced-generation cultivar resulting from two cycles of recurrent selection. Selections from ‘Citation II’ were crossed with ‘Master’ and selections from old turf areas in New Jersey. Progeny from these crosses were used to establish a spaced plant nursery to initiate the first cycle of phenotypic selection for resistance to crown rust (caused by Puccinia coronata Corda), stem rust (caused by P. graminis Pers.:Pers.), winter net blotch [caused by Drechslera dictyoides (Drechs.) Shoemaker f. sp. perenne; syn. Helminthosporium dictyoides Drechs.], an attractive dark green color, and improved seed propagation. It produces a dense, fine-textured turf with good mowing quality, a dark green color, and early spring greenup. Charger has good resistance to winter net blotch, brown patch (caused by Rhizoctonia solani Kühn), stem rust, crown rust [caused by Microdochium nivale (Fr.) Samuels & I.C. Hallett; syn. Gerlachia nivale (Ces. ex Sacc.) W. Gams & E. Muller], and red thread [caused by Laetisaria fuciformis (McAlpine) Burdsall]. Charger is useful for sports fields, parks, playgrounds, industrial sites, golf course tees, fairways and cart paths. Charger has performed well in a wide range of soil types and geographic areas where turf-type perennial ryegrass cultivars are adapted. Charger provides excellent cover for winter over-wintering, and can be used as a substitute for cool-season grasses.

Seed propagation of Charger is restricted to two generations of increase from breeder seed, one each of foundation and certified. Breeder seed is produced by Pure-Seed Testing. U.S. Plant Variety Protection Certificate no. 8900143 has been made available for Charger.