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Registration of ‘Sonesta’ Bermudagrass

‘SONESTA’ BERMUDAGRASS [Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers.] (Reg. no. CV-21, PI547109 was developed by the New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station and Farmers Marketing Corp. Sonesta was released in July, 1989. Early generations were tested under the experimental designation NM S-3.

Sonesta, a seed propagated cultivar, was developed for shorter internode length, greater turf density and increased green summer color. Parent clones were selected for high turf quality and acceptable seed yield.

Sonesta is a medium-fine textured turfgrass cultivar similar to ‘NuMex Sahara.’ Sonesta has a moderately narrower leaf width, shorter leaf length, shorter internode length and shorter plant height than NuMex Sahara when evaluated at Las Cruces, NM.

Parentage of Sonesta consists of six clones collected from several locations in the southern USA. Final selection was based on polycross progeny performance. Subsequently, progeny were subjected to four cycles of recurrent phenotypic selection for turf quality and two cycles of selection for seed yield. Breeder seed was produced in a crossing block containing approximately ten thousand seedlings of the synthetic cultivar.

Farmers Marketing Corp. purchased NM S-3 through a Turfgrass Germplasm Agreement with NMSU’s Technology Transfer Corp. After two generations of additional selection, primarily for higher seed yield, the variety was sold to O. M. Scott & Sons Co. Seed will be produced primarily in Arizona and California.

Registration of ‘Armor’ Oat

‘ARMOR’ SPRING OAT (Avena sativa L.), released in 1991, (Reg. no. CV-336; PI 564244), was developed by the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, The Ohio State University.

Armor was developed from the cross: ‘Amar’ × ‘Ogle’. It originated in 1984 as a single panicle in a bulk F6 population acquired from the USDA-ARS oat breeding and research program located at The Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station. The original cross was made by Harold G. Marshall. Armor was reselected as a single panicle in the F10 generation in 1988. Progeny were evaluated for uniformity for plant type in 1989 and 1990 following the 1990 harvest to comprise breeder seed.

Armor was evaluated under the designation OH1007 in statewide yield trials in Ohio from 1988 to 1991 and was evaluated in the Uniform Midseason Oat Performance Nursery in 1990 and 1991. In Ohio statewide yield trials Armor ‘Porter’, and Noble by an average of 5%, 19%, and 19%, respectively. It had an average test weight comparable to Ogle and Noble. Armor is a midseason maturity cultivar exceeding Ogle, 3 d later than Noble, and 2 d earlier than Porter. Armor is similar to ‘Ogle’ in plant height and has averaged 96 cm in height in tests in Ohio. Based on BYDV tolerance evaluations in 1990 at Brookings, SD, Lafayette, IN, and Urbana, IL, Armor, like Ogle, has moderate resistance to barley yellow dwarf virus; however, Armor is susceptible to prevalent races of Puccinia coronata var. avenae W.P. Fraser & Ledingham. Armor will perform best in areas with reduced crown rust incidence.

Armor’s juvenile growth habit is erect. Culms are medium in diameter and culm and leaf margins are present. Panicles are equilateral with Spikelet separation is by fracture and floret disarticulation. Lemmas are yellow and rachilla segments are absent. Secondary floret rachilla segments are present and midlong. The seed is non-fluorescent under ultraviolet light with fluorescence variants occurring at less than 0.2%. Awns are infrequent, non-twisted and average 20 mm in length when present. Kernels are bright yellow, medium sized, plump, and finely tapered at the tips.

Title V protection for Armor, under the provisions of the Plant Variety Protection Act, is pending. Production of foundation, registered, and certified seed will be permitted beyond breeder seed. Breeder seed of Armor will be maintained by the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, 1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster, OH 44691.