Registration of 'Putter' Creeping Bentgrass

'Putter' creeping bentgrass [Agrostis stolonifera var. palustris (Huds.) Farw., (A. palustris Huds.)] (Reg. no. CV-3, PI 543248) was released in August 1988 by Jacklin Seed Company, Post Falls, ID, using germplasm obtained from the Washington State University Puyallup Research and Extension Center, Puyallup, WA. Following extensive bentgrass accession collection and screening for disease resistance in eastern and western Washington during the early 1970s, 26 clones originating from the Northwest and the USA were assembled in a crossing block at the Puyallup Center. Through two consecutive cycles of intercrossing and selection for number of seed heads and plant phenotype, 120 improved lines were selected and seed were composited to form AP-10. AP-10 provides the seed base for maternal breeder plants of Putter. AP-10 was evaluated for seed yield potential and turf performance in mowed trials at the station from 1976 to 1981. Plots were evaluated under sand putting green management for take-all path disease [incited by Gaeumannomyces graminis (Sacc.) Arx. & D. Olivier var avenue (E.M. Turner) Dennis] resistance, annual bluegrass (Poa annua L.) encroachment, turf quality, and deep bluegreen color. Plots were also evaluated for adequate floret fertility. A breeder field of Putter was planted in summer 1985 near Salem, OR. A pollen parent with high seed yield potential, BPA-163, was planted in alternating rows with AP-10 to enhance seed yield. BPA-163 is a single plant selection from the Puyallup breeding nursery that had the same color and growth characteristics as AP-10, but a slightly more robust growth habit. Breeder seed, first produced in 1986, was harvested from the AP-10 plants only. Putter was initially grown and tested under the experimental designation JB-101.

Putter creeping bentgrass has been evaluated through four successive generations of seed increase and has proven to be a stable and uniform cultivar. All seedlots tested have produced turf of comparable quality and acceptable uniformity. The frequency of variant progeny in Putter is less than 5%. Aberrant progeny are rogued from seedstock fields to ensure continued uniformity and stability, but continue to occur in every generation.

Putter is a moderately low-growing creeping bentgrass with an attractive, moderately dark-green color. In national testing, Putter has shown exceptional winter color and a medium spring greenup rate. Putter is capable of producing a moderate agronomic turf with a fine textured, upright leaf habit. Putter has demonstrated good resistance to brown patch (incited by Rhizoctonia solani Kühn), pythium blight (incited by Pythium spp.), take-all patch, and leaf spot (incited by Drechslera spp.) diseases. It has shown moderate resistance to chinch bug (Blissus spp.) damage. Putter is capable of producing moderately high yields of quality seed. Putter is recommended for golf and sports turf in regions where creeping bentgrass is well adapted. It can be used on golf course putting greens, fairways, and tees. It grows well in full sun or moderate shade.

Breeder seed is maintained by Jacklin Seed Company. Seed propagation is limited to three cycles of increase from breeder seed, one each of foundation and certified. United States Plant Variety Protection certificate no. 900521 has been issued for Putter.

References and Notes


Registration of ‘Rocker’ Tanglehead

‘Rocker’ tanglehead [Heteropogon contortus (L.) Beauv. Ex. Roem. & J.A. Schultes] (Reg. no. CV-156, PI 562143) was released by the USDA-SCS, USDA-ARS, and the University of Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station 28 Sept. 1992. The cultivar will be used as an erosion control plant in southern Arizona and New Mexico, the grasslands of the lower Gulf Coast, and the mountains of western Texas.

Rocker is the product of a testing program to identify a superior ecotype of tanglehead that was conducted at the Tucson Plant Materials Center (TPMC). The initial study began in 1986 and consisted of 26 accessions of tanglehead. In 1990, four accessions were selected out of the initial study based on superior biomass and seed production. Seed from these four accessions was harvested and maintained separately. Plants propagated from this seed were planted on the TPMC farm in a spaced-plant, mass selection block. Rocker was selected from this population based on robust appearance and late flowering period. Rocker averaged 120 cm in height by 120 cm in width, compared to an average size of all other plants within the selection block of 70 by 90 cm. Rocker tanglehead consistently flowered 2 to 3 wk later than all other accessions that were evaluated.

Rocker was selected primarily for use in controlling rill and gully erosion. Tanglehead can produce dense stands of seedlings in areas where extra run-in moisture is available (4). Low palatability permits seed production where more palatable species may be too closely grazed to do so.

Tanglehead is an aposporous apomict (1). Normal chromosome number for this species is 2n = 60 (2). Tanglehead is a C,5 plant and virtually all growth occurs after the onset of summer rains in Arizona (mid-July through August) unless warm spring temperatures coincide with adequate soil moisture (3). Seed propagation of Rocker is restricted to two generations of increase from breeder seed, one each of foundation and certified. Breeder and foundation seed will be maintained by the USDA-SCS, Tucson Plant Materials Center, 3241 N. Romero Rd., Tucson, AZ 85705. Limited quantities of foundation seed will be available for commercial production in 1993.

References and Notes