broad with light anthocyanin pigmentation of the auricles. Meridian’s spike is mid-dense and awned. The basal florets of Meridian’s spike have glumes with wanting shoulders. The shoulder shape becomes more elevated in apical florets; terminal florets have square shoulders. The glumes are glabrous with acuminate beaks. The chaff color of Meridian is white. Meridian’s kernels are elliptical with angular cheeks, a mid-deep crease, and a mid-long brush. Meridian is moderately resistant to stripe rust (Puccinia striiformis West.) field races at Aberdeen and susceptible to field races at Pullman, WA. Meridian is moderately susceptible to dwarf bunt (Tilletia controversa Kühn in Rabenh.) and moderately resistant to snow mold (Microdochium nivale (Fr.) Samuels & I.C. Hallet, and Typhula spp.). Meridian is susceptible to the Russian wheat aphid (Diuraphis noxia Mordvilko).

Meridian, Ute, ‘Stephens’, and ‘Madsen’ have had average yields of 8.7, 8.5, 8.1 and 8.7 Mg ha⁻¹, respectively, in intensively managed irrigated trials at Aberdeen from 1986 to 1991. In the same trials the seed weight per volume of Meridian, Ute, Stephens, and Madsen was 792, 771, 755, and 767 g L⁻¹, respectively. Average yields of Meridian, Stephens, and Neeley were 6.8, 7.4, and 5.5. Mg ha⁻¹, respectively, in 2 yr of Tri-state HRW Nursery testing. In 3 yr of irrigated extension trials in southern Idaho, Meridian had an average yield of 7.8 Mg ha⁻¹ and Ute an average yield of 7.3 Mg ha⁻¹. In 16 of the 19 (85%) extension trials, Meridian had higher yields than Ute. The seed weight per volume of Meridian in extension trials was consistently higher than Ute (95% of trials) with averages of 797 g L⁻¹ and 769 g L⁻¹, respectively. Meridian is more susceptible to lodging than Ute, similar to ‘Daws’, Nugaines, and ‘Dusty’, and superior to Neeley. In 4 of 17 southern Idaho extension trials, Meridian had more severe lodging ratings than Ute. Winter hardiness of Meridian is comparable to other HRW wheats adapted to warmer climates of Argentina, Chile, Spain, and Australia.

Seed of Meridian will be maintained by the Idaho Agrcultural Experiment Station. Seed may be obtained by writing to the Foundation Seed Director, IAES, Moscow.


References and Notes


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Registration of ‘5888’ Alfalfa

‘5888’ ALFALFA (Medicago sativa L.) (Reg. no. CV-184, PI549108) was developed by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. and tested experimentally as XAN82 and YAN82. The cultivar was released 12 Feb. 1991.

5888 is a synthetic variety comprised from 108 parent plants originating from ‘5929’ and a Pioneer experimental 75MA-1. 75MA-1 further traces to ‘N-71 Brand’, ‘Sonora’, ‘El Camino’, ‘Bonacci’, ‘WL 202’, ‘WL 501’ with small contributions from ‘Moapa’, ‘Hayden’ and other Pioneer experimental lines. Parent plants were selected through phenotypic recurrent selection for phytophthora root rot (caused by Phytophthora medicagoe E.M. Hans. & Maxwell) (1), and stem nematode [Ditylenchus dipsaci (Kühn) Filipjev]. Germplasm sources of 5888 include approximately 3% M. varia, 4% Turkistan, 3% kondoi Shinji), pea aphid (Acyrthosiphon pisum (Harris)), and pea aphid (Phytophthora root rot and stem nematode. 5888 was selected for yield in the southwestern parts of the USA, and in the warmer climates of Argentinia, Chile, Spain, and Australia.

Seed increase is limited to one, two, and three generations of breeder, foundation, and certified seed classes, respectively. Limitation of age of stand is 3 and 5 yr, respectively, for breeder, foundation and certified seed. Seed produced in breeder class is not recognized as 5888. 5888 was granted registration in 1990 by the National Alfalfa Variety Review Board. Application for plant variety protection was submitted on 19 Mar 1991 for 5888.


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