Registration of ‘Cobra’ Creeping Bentgrass

‘Cobra’ creeping bentgrass (Agrostis palustris Huds.) (Reg. no. CV-4, PI 564594) was developed by the cooperative efforts of International Seeds, Inc., Halsey, OR, and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. It was released in October 1987 by International Seeds, Inc. Cobra was tested under the experimental designation HK. It is an advanced-generation synthetic cultivar selected from progeny of seven clones. Germplasm utilized in the development of Cobra is the result of a long-term bentgrass improvement program initiated at Rutgers University in 1974.

Parental clones of Cobra were selected in a breeding program based on phenotypic recurrent selection and clonal evaluation in closely mowed turfs of germplasm collected from old golf course fairways in New Jersey and Kentucky. From 1978 to 1980, vegetative sprigs of red leaf spot resistant genotypes were dug and transplanted under isolation in western Oregon. From 1979 to 1986 selected genotypes were evaluated for semiupright tillering, dark-green color, fine leaf texture, early maturity, seed yield potential, and maintenance of leaf turgor and dark-green blade color under soil moisture stress in a spaced-plant nursery in western Oregon. Open-pollinated seed from selected parents was harvested and established in spaced-plant nurseries and seeded turf trials near Tangent, OR, in spring 1982. Progeny were evaluated in 1983 for overall turf quality, uniformity of plant type, leaf texture, dark-green color, early maturity, seed yield potential, and maintenance of leaf turgor and dark-green blade color under soil moisture stress. In 1983, seven genotypes (AG 314, AG 563, AG 32, AG Twin Orchard, AG 25, AG 26, and AG 52), that had uniform appearance, high overall turf, and high ratings for texture, color, seed yield, and maturity as spaced plants and polycross progeny were identified as HK bentgrass. Syn 1 seed was produced from this block. A 0.8-ha Syn 2 breeder seed field was established in the fall of 1984 near Junction City, OR. This Syn 2 block underwent a cycle of selection for semiupright tillering, dark-green turf color, fine leaf texture, early maturity, and uniformity in plant type during 1985. Breeder seed was produced from selected plants in this population in 1985. Foundation seed increase was initiated in 1986. Certified seed became commercially available in 1988.

Cobra is a medium dark-green, leafy, semierect, fine-textured creeping bentgrass. It forms an even putting surface due to its uniform semierect growth habit. Cobra has a lower tiller mowing height and uniform turf are desirable for golf course fairways and tees, with improved turf-type perennial ryegrass (Lolium perenne L.) or other improved creeping bentgrasses utilized for winter overseeding of dormant grass, alone or blended with other improved bermudagrasses, or in mixtures with improved rough bluegrass (B. dactyloides var. arizonica (L.) F. T. Hasb.) or improved Chewing’s fescue (Festuca rubra L. subsp. litoralis (Meyer) Augustin). Breeder seed of Cobra will be produced by International Seeds, Inc., Halsey, OR. Seed increase is limited to three generations of increase from breeder seed of foundation, registered, and certified. Variety Protection Certificate no. 8900086 was registered on 31 Dec 1991.

R. E. Engel, G. W. Pepin, and C. W. Edminster

References and Notes

1. R. E. Engel (retired), Plant Science Dep., New Brunswick Cook College, Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, NJ. "Midlawn," Pickseed West, P.O. Box 888, Tangent, OR. "Midlawn," Edminster, International Seeds, Inc., P.O. Box 706, Hays, KS. Midlawn originated in the 1960s as a hybrid between tetraploid (2n = 4x = 36) C. dactylon and diploid (2n = 2x = 18) C. transvaalensis. The former is a hardy common bermudagrass (C. dactylon) grown in Michigan State University campus. The parentage was one of a few other Creeping bentgrass, alone or blended with other improved cre P1564594) was developed by the cooperative efforts of International Seeds, Inc., Halsey, OR, and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Stations through the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Foundation (KSURF) in June 1991.

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