CROP REGISTRATIONS

Forage dry matter yield of Arthur in the establishment year was higher \((P < 0.05)\) than ‘Summit’ crested wheatgrass \([Agropyron desertorum\) (Fisch. ex Link) Schultes] and ‘Chief’ intermediate wheatgrass \([Thinopyrum intermedium\) (Host) Barkw. & D.R. Dewey]. In 1979, the dry matter yield of Arthur was lower \((P < 0.05)\) than Summit and greater \((P < 0.05)\) than Chief for the first harvest and greater \((P < 0.05)\) than both cultivars for the second harvest. Second-harvest yields for Arthur were also greater \((P < 0.05)\) than Summit and Chief in 1980 and 1981. In six regional trials, the mean dry matter yields of Arthur in the establishment year and the first production year were higher \((P < 0.05)\) than ‘Prairieland’ Altai wildrye \([Leymus angustus\) (Trin.) Pilger] and giant wildrye \([Leymus cinereus\) (Scribn. & Merr.) A. Löve]. The mean seed yield of Arthur in these trials was 517 kg ha\(^{-1}\), compared with 216 kg ha\(^{-1}\) for Prairieland Altai wildrye. In a replicated, cafeteria-style grazing test over 2 yr, cattle \((Bos taurus)\) were observed to eat the leaves from Arthur, then eat the leaves of Altai wildrye and giant wildrye before returning to eat the culms and heads of Arthur. This preliminary study indicated that Arthur Dahurian wildrye is palatable to cattle.

Arthur is adapted to the Brown and Dark Brown Chernozem soil zones of western Canada, where it can be used as a short rotation pasture or hay crop or in mixtures with long-lived species that are slow to establish. Arthur is similar to the Dahurian wildrye cultivar James in most respects; however, Arthur heads 2 d earlier than James.

Breeder seed will be produced by Agriculture Canada at the Research Station, Swift Current, SK, and the Seed Increase Unit, Experimental Farm, Indian Head, SK. The multiplication and distribution of foundation and certified seed will be handled by SeCan Association, 200-57 Auriga Dr., Nepean, ON K2E 8B2, Canada.

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References and Notes


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Registration of ‘James’ Dahurian Wildrye

‘James’ Dahurian wildrye \((Elymus dahuricus\) Turcz. ex Griseb.) (Reg. no. CV-169, PI 576438) was released by the Agriculture Research Station, Swift Current, SK, and the Seed Increase Unit, Experimental Farm, Indian Head, SK. The multiplication and distribution of foundation and certified seed will be handled by SeCan Association, 200-57 Auriga Dr., Nepean, ON K2E 8B2, Canada.

Breeding lines were selected on the basis of head type from a space-plant nursery that had been established from a single accession (Sc 1732) introduced, obtained from Dr. J.W. Morrison, Research Station, Canada, Ottawa, ON. The pure line breeding used in the development of James, and the lines were included in performance trials.

In performance trials established at Swift Current, the forage dry matter yield of James in the establishment year was higher \((P < 0.05)\) than ‘Summit’ crested wheatgrass \([Agropyron desertorum\) (Fisch. ex Link) Schultes] and ‘Chief’ intermediate wheatgrass \([Thinopyrum intermedium\) (Host) Barkw. & D.R. Dewey]. In 1979, the dry matter yield of James was lower \((P < 0.05)\) than Summit and greater \((P < 0.05)\) than Chief for the first harvest and greater \((P < 0.05)\) than Chief for the second harvest. Second-harvest yields for James were also greater \((P < 0.05)\) than Summit and Chief in 1980 and 1981. In six regional trials, the mean dry matter yields of James in the establishment year and the first production year were higher \((P < 0.05)\) than ‘Prairieland’ Altai wildrye \([Leymus angustus\) (Trin.) Pilger] and giant wildrye \([Leymus cinereus\) (Scribn. & Merr.) A. Löve]. The mean seed yield of James in these trials was 677 kg ha\(^{-1}\), compared with 216 kg ha\(^{-1}\) for Prairieland Altai wildrye. In a replicated, cafeteria-style grazing test over 2 yr, cattle \((Bos taurus)\) would eat the leaves from James, then eat the leaves of Altai wildrye and giant wildrye before returning to eat the culms of James. This preliminary study indicated that James Dahurian wildrye is palatable to cattle.

James is adapted to the Brown and Dark Brown Chernozem soil zones of western Canada, where it can be used as a short rotation pasture or hay crop or in mixtures with long-lived species that are slow to establish. James is similar to the Dahurian wildrye cultivar Arthur in most respects; however, James heads 2 d later than Arthur.

Breeder seed will be produced by Agriculture Canada at the Research Station, Swift Current, SK, and the Seed Increase Unit, Experimental Farm, Indian Head, SK. The multiplication and distribution of foundation and certified seed will be handled by SeCan Association, 200-57 Auriga Dr., Nepean, ON K2E 8B2, Canada.

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