Registration of ‘CUT’N’GRAZE’ Alfalfa

‘CUT’N’GRAZE’ alfalfa (Medicago sativa L.) (Reg. no. CV-186, PI 583280) was developed by the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations and released in April 1993. It was tested experimentally as GA-APO-S, Apollo-S, ABI 9240, and GA-APS.

CUT’N’GRAZE is a synthetic cultivar with 90 parent clones. The parents were selected from ‘Apollo’ after screening for grazing survival under intense grazing pressure with continuous stocking by beef cattle (Bos taurus) for two summers. The estimated genetic constitution is approximately 10% falcata type (M. sativa L. subsp. falcata (L.) Arcang.), 12% Ladak, 34% varia type [Medicago sativa L. nothosubsp. varia (Martyn) Arcang.; = M. sativa subsp. sativa × M. sativa subsp. glomerata], 5% Turkistan, 6% Flemish, 19% Chilean, and 14% unknown sources.

Fall dormancy is similar to that of ‘Ranger’. Flower color of the Syn 1 is approximately 88% purple and 12% variegated, with traces of cream, yellow, and white. CUT’N’GRAZE has high resistance to fusarium wilt [caused by Fusarium oxysporum Schlectend.:Fr. f. sp. medicaginis (J.L. Weimer) W.C. Snyder & H.N. Hans.]; resistance to bacterial wilt [caused by Clavibacter michiganense subsp. insidiosum (McCulloch) Davis et al., 1984], phytophthora root rot (caused by Phytophthora sojae M.J. Kaufmann & J.W. Gerdemann; syn. P. medicaginis E.M. Hans. & Maxwell), pea aphid [Acyrthosiphon pisum (Harris)], and southern root-knot nematode [Meloidogyne incognita (Kofoid & White) Chitwood]; moderate resistance to anthracnose (Race 1) (caused by Colletotrichum trifolii Bain & Essary) and stem nematode [Ditylenchus dipsaci (Kuhn) Filipjev]; and low resistance to verticillium wilt (caused by Verticillium albo-atrum Reinke & Berthier) and aphanomyces root rot (Race 1) (caused by Aphanomyces euteiches Drechs.). It has not been tested for resistance to spotted alfalfa aphid (Therioaphis maculata Buckton) or blue alfalfa aphid (A. kondoi Shinji).

CUT’N’GRAZE appears to be adapted for use in the north central and southern parts of the United States for grazing and hay, silage, and dryland production. It has been tested for yield and persistence in Georgia, Iowa, and Michigan. After intensive grazing, CUT’N’GRAZE showed better plant survival than 11 other cultivars (1).

Seed increase is limited to one generation of breeder (Syn 1) and two generations each of foundation (Syn 2 and Syn 3) and certified (Syn 3 and Syn 4) seed classes. A 1-, 3-, and 6-yr stand life is permitted on fields producing breeder, foundation, and certified classes, respectively. Foundation and certified seed production is limited to the Pacific Northwest. Breeder seed was produced in 1988.

CUT’N’GRAZE was favorably reviewed by the National Alfalfa Variety Review Board in January 1994. An application has been made for Plant Variety Protection. Production and marketing rights were exclusively assigned by the University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc., to Agripro Biosciences, Inc.

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Published March, 1995

References and Notes

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