In early 1993, the Hop Research Council discontinued Ultra from cooperative evaluation. Testing in Washington was expanded to two additional locations because of substantial interest from microbrewers, leading to continued demand in the marketplace.

Ultra grows vigorously in early spring, reaching the top wire (5.5 m) about 5 to 6 wk after training. Plants flower in mid to late July, and cones mature about 10 September, which is about 2 wk later than the European ancestors but with substantially higher cone yields. Alpha and beta acid content under commercial conditions in Oregon and Washington is somewhat lower than that of Hallertauer mittelfrüh or Saazer, but the content of essential oils is slightly higher. Storage stability of dried cones of Ultra under ambient temperature is better than that of Hallertauer mittelfrüh or Saazer and similar to that of ‘Fuggle’ or ‘Willamette’. Ultra’s essential oil composition is virtually identical to that of Hallertauer mittelfrüh, with 30 to 40%humulene, about 30%myrcene, 12 to 14%caryophyllene, and virtually no farnesene.

Ultra has a cylindrical or inverse pyramidal growth habit, with most cones in the top half of the plant. Ultra is moderately resistant to hop downy mildew [caused by Pseudoperonospora humuli (Miyabe & Takah.) G.W. Wils.]. During the 7 and 5 yr of nursery testing in Oregon and Washington, respectively, and the 3 yr of commercial trials in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, no verticillium wilt symptoms (caused by various Verticillium spp.) were observed.

Virus-free genetic material of this release is available for research purposes, including the National Plant Germplasm System at the National Plant Germplasm Repository near Corvallis, OR. The material here described is available for research purposes, including development and commercialization of new lines and cultivars.

A. Haunold,* G. B. Nickerson

References and Notes

5. A. Haunold, USDA-ARS and Dep. of Crop Science, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. Contribution of the USDA-ARS in cooperation with the University of Idaho and the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station. Technical Bulletin 889, published by CSSA. Accepted 30 Apr. 1996. *Corresponding author.

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Registration of ‘AmeriGraze 702’ Alfalfa

‘AmeriGraze 702’ alfalfa (Medicago sativa L.) (Reg. no. CV-195, PI 594914) was developed by the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations and released in January 1996. It was tested experimentally as GA-MX.

AmeriGraze 702 is a synthetic cultivar with 150 parent clones. The parents were selected from the following germplasm sources after screening for survival under intense grazing with continuous stocking by beef cattle (Bos taurus) for two summers: 90 plants from Florida 77-S (1), 30 plants from GA-APGC (grazing tolerant strain cross between ‘Alfagraze’ and ‘CUT’N’GRAZE’), and 30 plants from GA-CMGC (a grazing tolerant strain cross between Alfagraze and ‘Cimarron’). Germplasm sources are M. falcata (2%), Ladak (2%), M. varia (7%), Turkistan (2%), Flemish (4%), Chilean (7%), and unknown (76%).

Fall dormancy of AmeriGraze 702 is similar to that of ‘Mesilla’. Flower color of the Syn 1 generation is approximately 94% purple and 6% variegated. AmeriGraze 702 has high resistance to fusarium wilt [caused by Fusarium oxysporum Schlechtend.:Fr. f. sp. medicaginis (J.L. Weimer) W.C. Snyder & H.N. Hans.; resistance to anthracnose (Race 1) (caused by Colletotrichum trifolii Bain & Essary), phytophthora root rot [caused by Phytophthora sojae M.J. Kaufmann & J.W. Gerdemann; syn. P. medicaginis (Drechs.) E.M. Hans, & Maxwell], and southern root-knot nematode (Meloidogyne incognita (Kofoid & White). The yield of this genotype was 14% caryophyllene, and virtually no farnesene.

AmeriGraze 702 was favorably reviewed by the National Alfalfa Review Board in January 1996. No decisions were made concerning U.S. plant variety protection. Seed raising rights were exclusively assigned by the University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc., to Agripro Seeds, Inc., Shawnee Mission, KS.

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References and Notes