Registration of ‘Jackpot’ Bermudagrass

Jackpot bermudagrass [Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers.] (Reg. no. CV-30, PI 584324), a seed-producing cultivar, was developed by Jacklin Seed Company, Post Falls, ID, and was released by Jacklin Seed on 10 Aug. 1995. The first certified seed was produced in August 1995. Jackpot was tested under the experimental codes J-912 and J-91.

Jackpot was derived from crosses to a single clone (CD-91) collected from an old turf area in the Columbia River Basin area in the state of Washington in October 1987. CD-91 was vegetatively increased and planted in spaced-planted nurseries in Post Falls, ID, and Roll, AZ. This clone was used in numerous crosses with cold-tolerant, fine-textured pollen parents, most of which were also selected from Washington state. Maternal progeny from seven crosses were used to establish a 1.0-ha selection block in Dome Valley, AZ, in early 1990. In September 1991, floret fertilities were measured and progeny growouts were conducted from randomly selected plants from the seven progeny lines in this block. Two breeding lines with high floret fertility levels were identified, CD91-2-3 and CD91-2-5. These two lines were allowed to open-pollinate with plants in the 1990 selection block. Twenty-six hundred progeny from these two lines were used to establish a spaced-plant breeder block near Dome Valley. Plants were removed that did not conform with the common phenotype of the population for height, leaf texture, color, high seed yield potential, and maturity. Approximately 15% of the plants were rogued prior to anthesis. The remaining plants were allowed to vegetatively repopulate the breeder seed block.

Jackpot bermudagrass is a seed-propagated, tetraploid (2n = 4x = 36), turf-type bermudagrass with an attractive medium-dark green color, medium-high density, and medium-fine leaf texture. In the 1992 National Turfgrass Evaluation Program bermudagrass test, Jackpot displayed improved performance over seeded Arizona common in turf quality; color; spring green-up; leaf texture; spring, summer, and fall densities; and spring and fall percent living ground cover (3). The color of Jackpot was similar to ‘Tifgreen’ (2) and ‘Texturf-10’ (1), two vegetatively propagated cultivars.

Under seed field production conditions, initial flowering of Jackpot is approximately 1 to 2 wk later than Arizona common. At maturity, plant height of Jackpot is approximately 187 mm and seed head length (from tip of spike to first node) averages 126 mm. In turf, Jackpot should perform well when used for lawns, parks, roadsides, cemeteries, golf course roughs and fairways, and other sports turfs in areas where bermudagrass is adapted.

Breeder seed of Jackpot is maintained by Jacklin Seed Co., Post Falls, ID. Seed production of Jackpot is limited to three generations of increase, one each of foundation, registered, and certified. Application (no. 9500002) has been made for U.S. plant variety protection.

References and Notes
2. D.D. Baltensperger and G.E. Frickel, Panhandle Research Station, Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station. Foundation seed can be obtained from the Nebraska Foundation Seed Division, Dep. of Agronomy, 3115 N. 70th, Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68507-1134. The seed classes allowed will include one generation of breeder, foundation, registered, and certified. Application (no. 9500002) has been made for U.S. plant variety protection.

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