Registration of ‘Sonata’ Perennial Ryegrass

‘Sonata’ perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne* L.) (Reg. no. CV-195, PI 597794) was released by Pure Seed Testing, Inc., Hubbard, OR, in 1997. Sonata is a synthetic cultivar selected from the maternal progenies of 30 perennial ryegrass plants. The first certified seed was produced in 1998. Sonata was tested under the designation PST-2R3.

The parentage of Sonata traces to two populations, SPLII-91 and 3300, screened at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) for summer turf performance. SPLII-91 was a composite of seed from 12 perennial ryegrass plants selected from a turf trial seeded September 1989 at Adelphia, NJ, in a poorly drained field that had been flooded during midsummer of 1990. Additional heavy stand losses had been caused by severe pythium blight [caused by *Pythium aphanidermatum* (Edson) Fitzp.]. Twelve attractive plants were selected from the survivors during the early spring of 1991 and were placed in an isolated nursery for interpollination. Seed was harvested and sent to Pure Seed Testing, Inc., in Hubbard. The harvested plants trace their origin to Pure Seed Testing experimental line 2ROR, ‘Prelude II’, ‘Passport’, and experimental selections from the NJAES breeding program designated SPL. Population 3300 was developed by selecting surviving plants from the above test during the fall of 1990 and the summer of 1991. Seed harvested from the 960 2R3 plants was from the 30 open-pollinated plants, which were designated 2R3.

During the spring of 1992, 30 phenotypically similar perennial ryegrass plants were identified in spaced-plant nurseries of SPLII-91 and 3300 near Hubbard. These plants, which included 16 from SPLII-91 and 14 from 3300, were identified after pollination as being low-growing, dark green, and free of stem rust (caused by *Puccinia graminis* Pers.:Pers.). Seed was harvested individually from the 30 open-pollinated plants, which were designated 2R3.

During the fall of 1992, these 30 plants were divided vegetatively into 32 propagules each and transplanted into an isolated nursery. This nursery prior to anthesis during the spring of 1991. Seed was harvested individually.

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Registration of ‘Discovery’ Hard Fescue

‘Discovery’ hard fescue (*Festuca longifolia* Thuill.) (Reg. no. CV-71, PI 566934) was released by Pure Seed Testing, Inc., Hubbard, OR, in September 1996. Discovery is an advanced-generation selection from two hard fescue populations, 4EG (14 plants) and AUE (18 plants), near Hubbard. Both 4EG and AUE trace their maternal origin to Aurora and 4AG, which traces its origin to Aurora.

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