Registration of Crop Varieties

REGISTRATION OF CUMBERLAND SUDANGRASS
(Reg. No. 13)

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'CUMBERLAND' sudangrass (Sorghum sudanense (Piper) Stapf.) was released in March 1967, by the University of Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station. Previous to this date the variety was known as Tennessee Synthetic 1.

Cumberland was selected at the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station, Knoxville, in the early 1950's. Line 17 of 'California 23,' a vigorous selection of 'Common' sudangrass, was crossed with 'Leoti,' a sweet juicy forage type sorghum, and with 'Piper,' a low prussic acid, disease-resistant sudangrass variety. The resulting F₁ plants were crossed: (California 23-17 × Leoti) × (California 23-17 × Piper). Lines SG 2-7, SG 3-7 and SG 1-16 were selected from this cross. Equal weights of seed of each of these lines were combined and grown under isolation to produce Syn 1 seed.

Cumberland has many of the characteristics of true sudangrass. Seed color varies from brown to reddish purple to black. Plants are characterized by fine stems, long narrow leaves and spreading panicles.

Cumberland has outyielded 'Greenleaf' and Piper by about 15% in the Tennessee sorghum variety test. These varieties have been compared for dry matter production in 13 states other than Tennessee. Because Cumberland had higher yields than either Greenleaf or Piper in a majority of these tests, Cumberland is believed to be widely adapted.

Although prussic acid poisoning of livestock is not considered to be a serious problem in Tennessee, the prussic acid potential of Cumberland has been studied. Average HCN (ppm fresh weight) from five tests were 8, 31, and 11 for Cumberland, Greenleaf and Piper, respectively.

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