REGISTRATION OF CULTIVARS

lated for pollination control in four groupings based on culm height and inflorescence color. Approximately 260 clones, selected from the best polycrossed progenies of these types, were field isolated for hybridization. Breeder seed (Syn-1) from intercrossing the clones in 1959 and 1960 was used to establish a foundation seed field in 1961. The first foundation seed (Syn-2) was produced in 1962.

Pawnee is typical of the big bluestem of the central prairies. Plants are long-lived perennials. They annually produce summer crops of waist-high, dark-green leaves and robust, tall seed stalks, with forked inflorescences which are brown to purplish at maturity. Awns of the sessile spikelets are prominent. There is considerable variation in the amount of pubescence in the seed heads.

Pawnee is a principal component of warm-season grass mixtures recommended in eastern and southern Nebraska for conservation and summer forage utilization. The variety has produced well in forage tests in Nebraska. It is superior in forage yield to local prairie types and ecotypes originating farther north and west. Pawnee is equal or superior to 'Kaw' in forage yields and is adapted farther north than Kaw. The variety makes its maximum growth in midsummer and is late maturing, approximately a week earlier in heading than Kaw bluestem in Nebraska.

Seed is best produced in irrigated rows with nitrogen fertilization applied in midspring. Seed crops will mature in central and eastern Nebraska as far north as the Platte Valley. In southeast Nebraska, seed matures for harvesting at the early frost dates.

Seed classes of Pawnee are breeder seed, foundation seed, and certified seed. The Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station produces and maintains breeder seed from selected clones and foundation seed grown from breeder seed. Certified seed is grown from foundation seed and is the market class for conservation and forage production plantings.

REGISTRATION OF CHAMP BLUESTEM1
(Reg. No. 2)
L. C. Newell2

’Champ’ bluestem is an interbreeding population of divergent types (3,4) in the taxon comprising big bluestem (Andropogon gerardi Vitman) and sand bluestem (Andropogon hallii Hack.). It was released in 1963 by the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station in cooperation with the Crops Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Champ was developed by hybridization of 5 typical clones of big bluestem from the fine-textured prairie soils of Iowa and southeast Nebraska with 5 clones of sand bluestem from the northern Nebraska sandhills. Eight Syn-1 clones from each of the 10 reciprocal crosses were intercrossed in isolation. Breeder seed is the Syn-2 generation.

Plants of Champ are leafy and intermediate to parent types in many characters including basal spread. They are variable in culm and glume color from yellow-green to purple and in foliage color from light green to glaucous gray. Inflorescences are intermediate in awn length and villousness. The cultivar makes good vegetative growth during midsummer and is moderately late maturing, ordinarily 7 to 10 days earlier in heading and maturity for seed harvest than Pawnee big bluestem. Champ may be grown in solid stands or mixtures of 2.

REGISTRATION OF BLAZE LITTLE BLUESTEM1
(Reg. No. 3)
L. C. Newell2

’BLAZE’ little bluestem (Andropogon scoparius Michx.) was released in 1967 by the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station in cooperation with the Crops Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Blaze was developed by hybridization of clones from the 1953 Domestic Collections from native prairie types in Nebraska and Kansas. Fifteen clones, selected for late maturity, and good seed production, were polycrossed. Their progenies were selected again for seedling and green leaf character which proved recessive to pink foliage color. A second generation of synthesis produced the variety Blaze.

Blaze is a leafy, late-maturing variety. Individuals may attain heights of 76 cm (30 inches) and spread (15 inches). Foliage is bright to dull green turning to a deep anthocyanin red at maturity in fall months. In limited tests Blaze produced better stands and more productive than other selected strains and native types. The variety is recommended for conservation pastures, mixtures of warm-season grasses in central and eastern Nebraska and adjacent areas in bordering states. An area of reliable seed production is centered in central Nebraska.

Seed classes recognized for Blaze are three generations designated as breeder seed, foundation seed, and certified seed. Breeder seed and foundation seed are produced in the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station. Certified seed is grown from foundation seed. It is the market class for range, pasture, and conservation plantings.

3 Registered by the Crop Science Society of America. Received March 28, 1968. Cooperative investigations of the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station and the Crops Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Published with the approval of the Director as Paper No. 2211, Journal Series, Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station, Lincoln, Nebr. 68503.