**Registration of ‘Maton II’ Forage Rye**

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‘Maton II’ winter forage rye (*Secale cereale* L.) (Reg. No. CV-19, PI 643433) was developed by the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Inc., Ardmore, OK. Maton II was tested under the experimental designation NF65. Maton II was released in 2006. Breeding line NF65 was developed from a single cross Polish-3 × ‘Maton’ (Bates, 1979) made in 1990 at the Foundation’s greenhouse. Polish-3 is an early fall-winter forage selection from germplasm originating from Poland. Maton is a cultivar that has shown superior total forage production, disease resistance, winter hardiness and tillering capacity in the southern Great Plains of the U.S. The hybrid seed were planted in pots (two plants/pot) under greenhouse condition allowing open pollination, and seeds (cycle 0) were harvested in bulk. Ten individual cycle 0 plants were spaced-planted in the 1991–1992 season, from which three plants were selected based on early fall-winter yield potential. The half-sib seed (cycle 1) were harvested from the selected individuals and space-planted again (ten plants of each family) in the 1992–1993 season. Five superior individual plants from the best family were selected for further evaluation and the half-sib seed (cycle 2) were harvested. The selected half-sib families were evaluated in progeny rows in 1994–1995 under open pollination. The best performing family was selected and the cycle 3 seed were harvested in bulk. The selected line was further evaluated in individual row plots during 1995–1996 season. In 1996–1997, the selected line was introduced to preliminary forage trials at Ardmore as experimental NF65. Yield performance was evaluated in 1997–1998 to 2004–2005 forage yield trials at Ardmore and Burneyville, OK, and in state-wide trials. Maton II is a cross-pollinated cultivar in which breeder seed has been produced and maintained under isolation since the 1998–1999 season. Seed production and marketing rights were exclusively assigned to TOPCO, Enid, OK, who will produce the certified seed.

Maton II is well-adapted in southern Oklahoma, north and east Texas, and Louisiana. Morphological attributes are similar to Maton. Leaf size (21.06 × 12.01 cm²) and plant height (153 cm) are significantly greater than ‘Elbon’ but similar to Maton and ‘Wrens 96’ (Bruckner et al., 1999). Stem diameter (4.67 mm), node number (5.4) and internode length (12.86 cm) at maturity are similar to the rye cultivars mentioned above (Table 1). Disease ratings (leaf rust and stem rust) in Oklahoma indicated that Maton II has the same level of disease tolerance attributes compared to Maton and ‘Oklon’ (Bates and Baker, 1994) and designated as moderately resistant. Winter hardiness and lodging resistance of Maton II was similar to both Maton and Oklon at Ardmore and Burneyville, OK. Maton II forage contains approximately the same amount of dry matter (94.03%), but has higher crude protein (17.10%), lower acid detergent fiber (34.27%) and neutral detergent fiber (57.41%) than Maton and Oklon. In vitro digestibility of this line was at least 1.2% higher than the checks (Table 2).

Maton II produced more total forage than commonly grown cultivars in southern Oklahoma (Fig. 1). In two years of yield testing in Louisiana, Maton II out-yielded Oklon, Maton, ‘Wintergrazer 70’, ‘Bates’ (Baker et al., 1996), ‘AGS 104’, ‘Boss’, and FL96RP16-34-1 by at least 7% for total yield (Alison, 2006). During seven years of testing (1997–2004) at Ardmore and Burneyville, the total and fall-winter dry forage yields of Maton II were significantly greater than the checks (Table 2).