

Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

B. Legumes

9. Annual Medics

a. *Medicago truncatula* Gaertn. var. *truncatula* (barrel medic)

cv. Ascot.

Reg. No. B-9a-8

Registered November 1979

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Origin

Ascot is derived from a cross between the two south Australia selections 150 and Lucas. The cross was made at Werribee in 1962. Selection and testing were carried out at Werribee and in the Wimmera and Mallee regions of Victoria.

Submitted for registration by Miss. G. Hutton and Mr. J. Wright of the Victorian Department of Agriculture which will maintain a supply of breeders' seed. Recommended for registration by the Victorian Herbage Plant Liaison Committee. Registered November 1979.

Morphological description

A procumbent, pubescent, self-pollinating annual. The leaflets are obovate to rhomboidal with truncate-rounded bases. The distal half is serrate and slightly mucronate. Both surfaces are hairy and devoid of any mark. Leaflets are large – c. 25 mm long and 15 mm wide compared with those of Borung which are c. 15 mm long and 12 mm wide. The moderately hairy stem is brown, becoming green at the outer extremity. The stipule is markedly toothed as in Borung. The petiole is brown-green and moderately hairy. The peduncle is green and bears 1-3 flowers. The calyx is yellow-green with teeth about equal in length to the tube. The corolla is medium yellow with no obvious veins on the inner surface of the vexillum.

The pods are coiled anti-clockwise, 6-8 mm diameter with 4-6 coils and protruding spines 1-2 mm long. The pods are a little lighter than those of Jemalong and c. 50% heavier than those of Borung. The pods usually contain six large seeds compared with an average of seven in Jemalong.

Agronomic characters (1, 2)

Under Victorian conditions Ascot flowers at about the same time as Jemalong and Borung. It has the ability to continue to grow if moisture is available after the first burrs have ripened and when other cultivars have dried off.

Its winter production has been better than that of Jemalong and at least equal to that of Borung in trials conducted over several years at three sites in the Wimmera Region. At two sites in the Mallee its winter production was at least equal to that of Jemalong and better than that of Harbinger. Total production has been superior to that of Jemalong in nearly all trials, better than that of Harbinger in the Mallee and at least equal to that of Borung in the Wimmera.

Under glasshouse conditions its tolerance to the spotted alfalfa aphid is midway between that of Jemalong (tolerant) and Borung (susceptible) (1). It is susceptible to the blue-green aphid in glasshouse tests (2), but field observations indicate that it is not as badly affected as Jemalong.

It is expected that Ascot will be a useful replacement for Borung in the Wimmera and Jemalong in the Mallee, but it is not expected to replace Harbinger on the lighter soils of the Mallee.

References

1. Kobelt, E. (1979). Personal communication. S.A. Dep. Agric. Fish., Adelaide.
2. Ridland, P., and Berg, G., (1977). Personal communication. Vic. Dep. Agric., Melbourne.