Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

B. Legumes
1. Clover
Trifolium subterraneum ssp. *subterraneum* (Katzn. *et* Morley) Zohary and Heller (sub clover) cv. Bacchus Marsh

Reg. No. B-1d-4
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Origin

Observed occurring in fields at Myrniong near Bacchus Marsh, Vic., before 1930. Seed distributed for trial under the name Bacchus Marsh (3). Comparative trials with the cultivars Dwalganup and Mt. Barker reported in Victoria (3) in 1940 and in South Australia (10) in 1942. Seed first certified by Victorian Department of Agriculture in 1937, South Australia in 1949-50, Western Australia in 1947, and New South Wales in 1952-53.

Morphological description (1,3,14)

Grown as spaced plants forms a medium number (12-18) of runners with long internodes, produces only 3-4 laterals per runner and these laterals may branch once or twice (1). The leaflets are hairy on upper and lower surfaces. A well-marked pale green crescent is present and during winter or in spaced plants there is strong anthocyanin flecking on both upper and lower surfaces, especially near the midrib and in young leaf. The first flower appears at about the 7th-8th node. Calyx tube and lobes green without any red markings. Seedling as in Mt. Barker but radicles fluoresce blue with moderate intensity in ultraviolet light; hypocotyl is moderately pigmented and cotyledons also flecked with anthocyanin. First trifoliate leaf with heavily pigmented petiole and the leaflets moderately flecked with anthocyanin, especially near midribs, and with small pale green central mark (6).

Agronomic characters (2,3,10,12,14)

Bacchus Marsh is early mid season in maturity, commencing to flower in early September usually about a week to 10 days earlier than Mt. Barker and a few days later than Woogenellup. It requires a 7-month growing season (or slightly less in Western Australia) and an annual rainfall of 480-500 mm or more. It may, however, survive and grow successfully in lower than 460-mm rainfall areas. It is therefore suited to districts where the growing season is a little short for the mid-season variety Mt. Barker. Comparable in soil requirements to Mt. Barker.

Cv. Bacchus Marsh produces well in late autumn and spring and is high-yielding for its maturity time. It has a moderate proportion of impermeable seed at maturity but a rapid increase in permeability during summer gives a high level of soft seed by autumn. In Western Australia, frequently all or almost all the hard seeds soften by early autumn and this sometimes causes regeneration failures following "false breaks" (13). The seeds also have little physiological dormancy (8). A high proportion of unburied burr may be formed.

Rhizobial requirements the same as Mt. Barker (q.v.).

Reported to be more resistant to rust than Mt. Barker (7,11) and to be susceptible to clover stunt virus (5). Oestrogenic potency low (4,9).

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