

Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

B. Legumes

1. Clover

Trifolium cherleri L. (cupped clover) cv. Beenong

Reg. No. B-1f-2

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Origin

Derived from seed collected in 1951 by C.M. Donald and J.F. Miles of CSIRO, some 29 km along the Nicosia-Troodos road in Cyprus, and introduced as C.P.I.13930 (1). Selected by E.T. Bailey on the basis of comparative trials of annual legumes during 1958-63 on a number of sites in the wheat belt of Western Australia (2). Seed first commercially available 1963.

Morphological description (3)

Similar to Yamina but is rather more prostrate in habit and has somewhat shorter stem internodes. The leaflets, heads, and seeds are smaller. Seeds approx. 350,000 per kg.

Agronomic characters (1-3)

Flowers approximately 3-7 days earlier than cv. Yamina and is thus a little better adapted to lower rainfall areas. In trials at a series of sites in the wheat belt of Western Australia, cv. Beenong gave considerably lower herbage yields than cv. Yamina but only slightly lower seed yields (1,2). At locations with 356 mm annual rainfall Beenong, when ungrazed, gave similar or lower yields of dry matter to Geraldton sub clover and Cyprus barrel medic; and lower yields than Kondinin and Sirint rose clover (3). However, under a frequent cutting technique the yield of Beenong, though not as high as that of Yamina, was greater than that of Cyprus, Geraldton, and Sirint on heavy soils and much greater on light soils (3).

Under drier conditions the yields of Beenong equal or may exceed those of Yamina and it regenerates better. It would seem best adapted to the eastern edge of the Western Australian wheat belt.

Its rhizobial requirements are similar to cv. Yamina.

References

1. Anon. (1966). Cupped clover. *Rur. Res. CSIRO* **57**, 13-15.
2. Bailey, E.T. (1965). Rose and cupped clover trials in Western Australia. CSIRO Aust. Plant Introd. Rev. No. 2(1), pp. 19-26.
3. Bailey, E.T. (1967). Personal communication. CSIRO West. Aust. Regional Lab., Perth.