

# Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

## A. Grasses

### 10. Pennisetum

#### *Pennisetum clandestinum* Hochst. et Chiov. (Kikuyu grass) cv. Breakwell

Reg. No. A-10c-2

Registered November 1971

*Published in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars 1972*

#### Origin

Derived from seed harvested in 1965 from a well-defined patch of hermaphrodite Kikuyu growing in a lawn at Grafton Agricultural Research Station, and subsequently tested against the cultivar Whittet by the New South Wales Department of Agriculture.

Submitted for registration by the New South Wales Department of Agriculture and recommended for registration by the New South Wales Herbage Plant Liaison Committee. Registered November 1971.

#### Morphological description

Cv. Breakwell is more densely tillered than Whittet; its growth habit is more prostrate; its leaves are narrower; its stems are thinner and it has shorter internodes. The sward formed is denser than that of Whittet. Between 15 and 20% of the plants grown from seed of Breakwell are male sterile. All of the progeny are female fertile.

#### Agronomic characters (1,2)

In experimental comparisons with Whittet dry matter yields of mown swards or pot-grown single plants are generally lower, but Breakwell covers the ground at a faster rate. It may resist heavy stocking and invasion by unwanted species better than Whittet and it could be sown at lower seeding rates. It is likely to prove superior to Whittet for soil stabilization uses and it is a better lawn grass.

Time of flowering, seed yield, and seed quality do not differ significantly from Whittet.

Grafton Agricultural Research Station will maintain a stock of breeder's seed of cv. Breakwell.

#### References

1. Wilson, G.P.M. (1968). New Kikuyu variety performs well at Grafton. *Agric. Gaz. N.S.W.* **79**, 51.
2. Wilson, G.P.M. (1970). Method and practicability of kikuyu grass seed production. Proc. 11th Int. Grassld. Congr., Surfer's Paradise, Qld., pp. 312-15.