

Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

A. Grasses

6. Panic

Panicum coloratum var. *makarikariense* Goosens (Makarikari grass) cv. Burnett

Reg. No. A-6a-3

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Origin

Derived from seed sample introduced by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Stock in 1954 from Bechuanaland, South Africa (Q.3510). Tested at the Brian Pastures Research Station at Gayndah. Released for commercial use by the Queensland Pasture Liaison Committee in 1962.

Morphological description (1, 2)

Differs from other lines of Makarikari grass primarily in habit and growth characteristics not in morphological detail. Cv. Burnett is a tall, tussocky, semi-erect type with greater ability to spread from lower nodes than Bambatsi and in this respect is intermediate between Bambatsi and Polloci, i.e. about 50% of its population is comparable with Bambatsi in habit and about 50% is as stoloniferous as Pollock. In spaced plant swards crowns may grow to 91 cm in diameter and culms to 1.4 m tall. Leaves large like cv. Bambatsi. Panicle large with a tendency towards lateral displacement of consecutive branches; rachis grooved but rounded. It is dark-seeded like Bambatsi.

Agronomic characters (1, 2)

Similar to Bambatsi and Pollock in general agronomic characters and adapted to the same general environment; has grown well on clay soils in the Burnett district of southern Queensland. It has shown a degree of frost tolerance; winter growth is slow but new tillers are produced during this period if moisture is available. Seed matures unevenly as in other lines and shatters badly.

References

1. Lloyd, D.L. (1971). Personal communication. Qld. Wheat Res. Inst., Dep. Primary Ind., Toowoomba.
2. Lloyd, D.L., and Scateni, W. (1968). Makarikari grasses for heavy soils. *Qd agric. J.* **94**, (12), 721-4.