Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

A. Grasses
1. Cocksfoot
Dactylis glomerata L. (cocksfoot) cv. Kasbah

Reg. No. A-1a-8
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Origin

Breeder's seed is derived from the inter-crossing of 17 mother plants, which were selected from C.P.I.18900 and 18902 by Dr. J.A. Carpenter, Waite Agricultural Research Institute, Adelaide, on the basis of early stem elongation of reproductive tillers, uniformity of flowering time, non-prostrate habit and medium-width leaves. The mother plants are similar in type to and include Clone 56, which was described by R. Knight (2, 3) as having high winter yields.

The original 128 plants of C.P.I.18900 and 18902 were collected as seed by Mr. C.A. Neal-Smith of the FAO-SCIRO Plant Exploration Mission in 1954, near the valley of the Oum er Rbia in Morocco, just west and east of the Barrage Imfout, latitude 33°N., annual rainfall about 270 mm, with a summer drought of 6 to 7 months (4, 5). Under the symbol G136, Kasbah has been sown in field trials in New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia in 1967-9.

Submitted for registration by J.A. Carpenter and recommended for registration by the South Australian Herbage Plant Liaison Committee. Registered May 1970.

Morphological description

Kasbah is a Mediterranean tetraploid type with an erect to semi-erect growth habit in spaced planting, with narrow (4mm) blue-green leaves that show no winter browning but which die back completely in dry summer conditions. The spreading panicles are similar to the average type in Currie, but the clusters of florets are almost as narrow as in Berber and more uniform in size than in Currie, and in one-third of the panicles some of the large secondary branches arise in pairs on the main axis, as in Berber. The lemma is slightly to moderately bilobed at the apex and about one-half of the paleas and lemmas have prominently ciliated keels. At maturity the seed is held in the panicles better than in Berber or Brignoles, but not as well as in Currie. The caryopsis is small (0.40 mg), and it sheds easily from the palea and lemma during threshing.

Agronomic characters

The seedling establishment of Kasbah is slightly better than that of Berber , being similar to Currie although the seedlings are initially smaller than those of Currie.

Growth during later autumn to mid winter is very good, especially after a preceding dry spring and summer, and may exceed the yields of Currie and Berber; growth in later winter and spring is poor, and the senescence of leaves occurs in mid spring, even with adequate moisture (1). This behaviour is similar to that of Clone 56 of Knight (2, 3). Heading mainly occurs in early September and flowering occurs about one month before Berber and Currie. Considerable heading can occur in autumn, following a dry spring and summer.

In summer the plants are very dormant, not responding to irrigation (1) and the cultivar survives summer drought better than Berber and Currie. Kasbah is less susceptible to leaf rust than are Berber or Currie.

References

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