

Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

B. Legumes

4. Glycine

a. Neonotonia wightii (Wight & Arn.) Lackey

cv. Cooper

Reg. No. B-4a-2

Registered prior to December 1971

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Origin (4)

Introduction by the CSIRO Plant Introduction Section in January 1959, as C.P.I. 25702 from the Agricultural Corporation, Kongwa, Tanganyika. It was grown first at the CSIRO pasture research stations at Gatton and Samford and later at other sites in the southern Brigalow region of Queensland. Mr. L. Edye selected it for its early flowering habit compared with Tinaroo, its high vigour, and drought resistance. Its commercial release was approved by the Queensland Pasture Liaison Committee in August 1962.

Morphological description (6, 8)

Stems are more branched and more slender and stoloniferous than Clarence but not as lax, wide-spreading, or stoloniferous as Tinaroo. It is more pubescent all over than Tinaroo or Clarence. The stem hairs are retrorsely semi-erect as in Tinaroo, but are white and more reflective and produce an ash-silvery appearance. Petioles 5-13 cm long. Leaflets 5-8 cm long and 4-6.5 cm wide, generally broad ovate-obtuse to elliptical. The lateral leaflets are unsymmetrical, being larger on one side of the midrib than the other, but the base is oblique, truncate to subcordate, and the smaller side has its broadest part toward the apex, the larger its broadest part toward the base, producing a skewed shape; margins are conspicuously pubescent, the upper surface sericeous, slightly more so than the lower. Stipules lanceolate, setaceous, 4 to 6 mm long. Inflorescence 5-13 cm long on peduncles 5-10 cm long strongly interrupted. Flowers 6 mm long, white with pink-violet streaks on standard, in whorls of 2 to 3; calyx tube sericeous, teeth setaceous and 1.5 times the length of the calyx. Pods 2.5-4.0 cm long, acuminate to weakly uncinuate, mid brown, and constricted between the seeds. Approximately five-seeded, antrorsely hirsute. Seeds light brown, 150 000-160 000/kg. Chromosome number: diploid, $2n = 22$ (7).

Can be distinguished from Clarence and Tinaroo by (a) its ash-silver vesture, the hairs being colourless on all parts of the plant, highly reflective, and masking the brown veinal pigmentation, (b) its leaflet shape, (c) the constrictions in its pods, and (d) its more pronounced branching.

Agronomic characters

Flowers in late April and matures seed earlier (4-6 weeks) than Tinaroo (1, 5) but a little later than Clarence (2, 5). It continues growth a little later into the autumn than Clarence because of its later flowering. It is more drought-resistant than either Clarence or Tinaroo and adapted to slightly lower rainfall regions (2, 3, 5). Its seedling vigour is greater than that of both Clarence and Tinaroo and it is more productive in its first year (6). It has a specific inoculant requirement similar to Tinaroo.

References

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