

Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

B. Legumes

8. Lucerne

***a. Medicago sativa* L. (lucerne)**

cv. Demnat

Reg. No. B-8a-6

Registered July 1972

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Origin

The seed was received in 1953 from the chef de Service de l'Experimentation Agricole en Algerie a Maison Carree, Algeria under the name Demnat. It was given the C.P.I. Number 18201. It was selected on the basis of being the highest yielding lucerne in a 3-year trial under irrigation (1). It maintained its reputation in dryland trials at Kojonup (2) and more recently at Lake Grace. Submitted for registration by Mr E.T. Bailey, formerly of CSIRO Western Australia, and recommended by the Western Australian Herbage Plant Liaison Committee. Registered July 1972.

Morphological description

Growth habit is upright with fewer but somewhat coarser and taller growing stems and larger leaflets than Hunter River. Flower colour and seed size as for Hunter River.

Agronomic characters (1, 2)

The seedlings are erect and very vigorous. Autumn and winter growth is very good and it does not appear to be affected by frost under Western Australian conditions. In spite of its erect habit, it stands cutting very well and appears equally adaptable to dryland or irrigated conditions.

Table 5. Dry matter yields as percentage of Hunter River at Lake Grace, WA.

Cultivar	1969 7 cuts at approx. 4 weeks 16/4 – 15/10 inc.	1970 6 cuts at approx. 6 weeks 22/2 – 13/10 inc.
Hunter River	100	100
Demnat	103	129
African	96	117
Lybie	107	108
Navidad	89	81

References

1. Rapport du Conseil de l'Experimental ed des Recherches Agronomiques pour 1951-2 p. 93. Algeria.
2. Rogers, A.L., and Bailey, E.T. (1968). A lucerne variety trail in South Western Australia. *Field Station Record. Vol 7. No. 1.*