

Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

A. Grasses

9. Forage Sorghum

Sorghum spp. hybrid. (forage sorghum hybrids) cv. FS-22A

Reg. No. A-9d-3

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Origin

Cv. FS-22A is the F1 hybrid between selected lines of grain sorghum and sweet sorghum which were initially tested and selected by the Dekalb Agricultural Association Inc., at Lubbock, Texas. It is closely related to FS-22 which was released by the Dekalb Agricultural Association Inc. of Illinois, in 1958.

FS-22A was released in Australia in limited quantities in 1963. It is an F1 hybrid and does not breed true in succeeding generations. The trueness to type is maintained through the propagation of the parental lines, which are the property of the Dekalb Agricultural Association Inc. of Illinois, and are propagated under arrangement by the Dekalb Shand Seed Company Pty. Ltd., Tamworth, N.S.W.

Morphological description (1)

Grows to height of 3-3.6 m at maturity (e.g. similar to cv. Tracy) and is of a general purple colour. The stem is stout, juicy, and sweet, with many tillers. The leaves are 12-14 per stem and have cloudy midribs. The inflorescence is erect, twice as large as Tracy, and compact, with branches heavily fruited; and it remains intact at maturity. Glumes are black, non-pubescent, short with rounded apices, of hard texture, and without awns. Stigmas are yellow at flowering. The F1 grain is red, ovoid, has a starchy endosperm, and no nucellar layer; it threshes free of the glumes. The F2 grain produced from the F1 plant is red and threshes free from the glumes.

Agronomic characters (2)

FS-22A is adapted to areas where the sweet sorghums cv. Sugardrip and cv. Saccaline may be grown. It is earlier than cv. Tracy and similar to Sugardrip in maturity. It has performed well compared with Tracy and Sugardrip, especially under irrigation. It does not lodge as easily as Sugardrip but is more comparable to Tracy in standing ability.

References

1. Dekalb Shand Seed Co. Pty. Ltd. (1966). Source of information. (Tamworth, N.S.W.)
2. Imrie, B.C. (1966). Forage sorghums - new hybrids now available. *Agric. Gaz. N.S.W.* **77**, 601-3.