

Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

B. Legumes

13. Vetch

a. *Vicia sativa* L. (common vetch)

cv. Goldens Tares

Reg. No. B-13a-1

Registered prior to December 1971

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Origin

This variety is derived from material introduced to Australia sometime prior to 1920. The precise circumstances of its introduction are not known but it probably came from England. Seed is produced in the Kindred and Forth areas between Devonport and Ulverstone on the north-west coast of Tasmania (4).

Morphological description (4)

A herbaceous sparsely hairy annual, trailing to ascending in habit, and more prostrate in early stages of growth than Languedoc. Seedling development is of the hivernal type as described by Hugues (6), the primary stem dying early with vigorous development of numerous basal lateral stems. The first several or primary leaves with two equal, opposite, narrow linear leaflets, 2.0 cm x 0.5 cm. Subsequent leaves pinnate with 4-8 pairs of leaflets, the terminal leaflets developing as tendrils. Leaflets hairy 1.5-2.5 cm long, oval-oblong, end-flattened and with small pointed tip. Stipules small, toothed, hairy, clasping the stem. Flowers subsessile, single or in pairs in axils of leaves; standard 12 mm across, purple; wings and keel red-purple. Pods fawn-coloured, 1 cm wide and up to 6 cm long, compressed, unsegmented, linear with recurved beak, pubescent, with 8-10 seeds. Seeds small pale orange to cream in colour, spherical, approximately 13 200/kg.

Agronomic characters (2-5, 7-9)

Cv. Golden Tares is a winter-growing grain legume adapted to a temperature climate of moderate rainfall, 635 mm and over. Grows successfully on a wide range of soils from light sandy types to moderately heavy clays. It nodulates satisfactorily with *Rhizobium* strains TA101, which is contained in commercial inoculant 'E'. It is used, *inter alia*, as protein-rich forage for dairy cattle giving good grazing in winter and spring following autumn sod seeding into paspalum or Kikuyu pastures.

It is late-maturing, one month later than Languedoc. Sown in Tasmania about the middle of August it flowers during December and pods are mature by the first of February. Yields of from 2500-3760 kg/ha of dry matter are obtained on the far north coast of New South Wales. At first flowering will yield 16% crude protein. The pods shatter readily and present seed harvesting difficulties. Seed yields in Tasmania ranged from 726 to 1224 kg/ha (average 1056 kg/ha) during 1960-64.

A bacterial leaf and stem disease caused by *Pseudomonas stizolobii* may cause stunting and severe yield loss, especially after wet autumn weather (1).

References

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