

# Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

## B. Legumes

### 1. Clover

#### *Trifolium hirtum* All. (rose clover) cv. Hykon

Reg. No. B-1e-4

Registered September 1967

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#### Origin

Derived from a single plant selected in 1961 by E.T. Bailey, CSIRO Division of Plant Industry, W.A. Regional Laboratory, Nedlands, W.A., from a number of seedlings. The seedlings were grown from a hybrid plant which occurred as the product of a natural cross within the cultivar Kondinin in 1960. The selection was based on time of maturity, productivity, and leaf markings. In 1962 seed from the selected plant gave 97% purity with 3% hybrid plants, but since then the line has remained 100% true to type when grown as spaced plants. First certified by the Department of Agriculture of Western Australia in 1966.

It was submitted by the CSIRO Western Australian Regional Laboratory, and recommended for registration by the Western Australian Herbage Plant Liaison Committee.

#### Morphological description (1)

When grown as spaced plants it is similar in growth habit to Kondinin, being semi-erect and having large leaflets, long petioles, and a stemmy appearance. It has a pale crescent bordered by a chocolate or reddish line about half-way up the leaflet, but there is no central reddish dot as in Sirint. Near flowering time the crescent may take the form of a shallow V. Approx. 245,000 seeds per kg.

#### Agronomic characters (1,2)

Flowering occurs mid September to early October, approximately 7-10 days earlier than Kondinin.

In trials at a series of sites throughout the wheat belt of Western Australia in 1964, Hykon, when not cut or grazed, gave outstanding dry matter yields on both light and heavy soils; these yields usually greatly exceeded those of Cyprus barrel medic on heavy land and Geraldton sub clover on light soil. Under frequent cutting treatment, however, yields were much the same as Cyprus and Geraldton, slightly less than Kondinin rose clover, and much less than Yamina cupped clover and Olympus rose clover. Hykon's early flowering makes it safer for seed setting than Kondinin in the lower rainfall areas.

#### References

1. Bailey, E.T. (1966). Rose clover; description, use, and varietal differences in rose clover in Western Australia. *J. Agric. West. Aust.* 7(4th Ser.), 170-5.
2. Bailey, E.T. (1967). Personal communication. CSIRO West. Aust. Regional Lab., Perth.