

Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

B. Legumes

13. Vetch

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

cv. Languedoc

Reg. No. B-13a-2

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Origin

Derived from seed introduced in 1951 from the Service de l'Experimentation Agricole en Algeria, Maison-Caree, Algeria, under the name Languedoc 225. Given the CPI number 15504. Selected by E.T. Bailey, CSIRO, on the basis of yield and maturity time from preliminary trials at Kojonup and Perth, W.A., in 1956, and a series of comparative trials at a number of locations in the wheat belt of Western Australia during 1957, 1958, and 1959 (1, 2). Released for commercial use in 1963.

Morphological description (1)

The primary stem only attains a height of about 15 cm and then dies off. The apparent main stems are developed from axillary buds at the base of the primary stem. Habit of the type 'Printanier' as described by Hugues (3). Main stems angular, ascending, semi-erect to 76 cm with only little branching from base. The first several or primary leaves have two equal opposites narrow leaflets 3.0 cm long; subsequent leaves pinnate, with 4-7 pairs of leaflets, the terminal leaflets developing as tendrils. Leaflets hairy, oblong, squarish or truncated at end, 2.4 cm long and one third as wide, midrib projecting to a minute point. Stipules small, toothed, clasping the stem, and with a purplish spot. Flowers subsessile, single or in pairs in axils of leaves; standard 10-15 mm, violet; calyx hairy. Pod about 5 cm long, compressed, buff-coloured, lightly pubescent, narrow, with 6-8 seeds. Seeds brownish, with brown, dark grey, and cream mottling, pale yellow in fracture, subglobular to ovoid, diameter 4.5 mm, approximately 14 000/kg.

Agronomic characters (1, 2).

A winter-growing grain legume adapted to a temperature Mediterranean-type climate, cv. Languedoc is early-flowering and heavy-yielding in comparison with most varieties tested to date in Western Australia. It flowers about 13 September at Kojonup and matures seed some 8 weeks later. Seed tends to shed as pods ripen. Nodulation requirement same as Golden Tares.

In Western Australia it is best adapted to the 360-430 mm rainfall zone and may possibly do well in slightly shorter growing seasons. Its usefulness extends over the 305-635 mm rainfall range(4). In trials on a series of sites in the wheat belt of Western Australia, it averaged, over three years, seed yields of 680, 1390, and 890 kg/ha and total dry weight forage yields 3.6 times higher.

Languedoc prefers medium soils and will only tolerate waterlogging for short periods. It is resistant to the pea weevil but susceptible to the red-legged earth mite. Recovers well from early grazing.

References

1. Bailey, E.T. (1962). Varieties of common vetch (*Vicia sativa* L.). *CSIRO, Aust. Div. Pl. Fld. Sta. Rec. No. 1*(1), pp. 32-8.
2. Bailey, E.T. (1965). Yield trials of *Vicia sativa* L. in the wheat belt of Western Australia. *Aust.J. Exp. Agric. Anim. Husb.* **5**, 466-9.
3. Hugues, P. (1954). Etudes preliminaires a la creation d'un catalogue des especes et varietes de vesces cultivees en France. *Annls Amel. Pl.* **4**(3), 385-448.
4. Poole, M.L. (1969). Vetches for the cereal growing areas. *J. Agric. West. Aust.* **10**(4th Ser.), 15-17.