

Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

A. Grasses

12. Buffel

Cenchrus ciliaris L. (buffel grass) cv. Molopo

Reg. No. A-12a-2

Registered prior to December 1971

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Origin

This cultivar was imported commercially into New South Wales from South Africa in 1958, following earlier testing in the 1940s by the New South Wales Department of Agriculture at Trangie (7), under the name *Cenchrus ciliaris* forma *stolonifera*. The variety was first collected along the Molopo River in Western Transvaal, South Africa, and transplanted to a farm near Warmbaths in Northern Transvaal; it was from this area that the first certified seed was produced in 1953 (4).

Morphological description (2 et al.)

Rather similar to cv. Biloela but a little taller and more rhizomatous; the culms are usually 9-13-noded and arise from rhizomes; they are possibly finer but more wiry than those of Biloela. It has a low tiller density. The leaves are distinctly glaucous and a little greyer than Biloela. The leaf sheaths and lower surface of leaf blades are smooth and the ligule is a little larger, being 1.5-2.0 mm long. The seed heads are straw-coloured.

Agronomic characters

Molopo is similar in performance to cv. Biloela (1), but has outyielded it at Biloela Research Station (4). It is later-flowering than any other cultivar (8), is more cold-tolerant, and grown longer into the winter; it has given good production in cooler winter areas (3,6). It is also regarded as being better adapted to heavy soils than most other varieties (9). It is commonly reported to have a low seed production; this can be increased, however, by applying adequate nitrogen fertilizer (5).

References

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