

Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

B. Legumes

1. Clover

Trifolium fragiferum L. (strawberry clover) cv. O'Connors

Reg. No. B-1c-2

Registered prior to December 1971

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Origin

This is an ecotype which developed in the Penola district of South Australia. The species spread naturally in the Penola district, where isolated areas had been planted towards the turn of the 19th century with runners collected near the ballast yards of Port McDonnell, where strawberry clover had become well established earlier. Seed was first produced and harvested on a commercial scale in the Penola district about 1937. It became known locally as the "O'Connors strain" after a landholder in the south-eastern part of South Australia. First certified by the Department of Agriculture of South Australia in 1950-51.

Morphological description (2)

Similar to cv. Palestine in all respects except that the stems are finer and more prostrate, stolon development is less vigorous, and internodes are shorter but lateral development more marked, resulting in the more rapid formation of a sward. Leaves are smaller, round to oval, and generally hairless although a few occasionally are seen on the midrib. Seeds are smaller, approx. 850,000 per kg.

Agronomic characters (2)

O'Connors is later flowering than Palestine and makes reasonably good summer growth. Its forage has a higher proportion of leaf to stem than Palestine, and withstands grazing better than that variety (1). It has the same tolerance to moderately high soil salinity and to waterlogged and swampy conditions. Its winter and early spring production is, however, much lower than that of Palestine. It is now used largely as a lawn legume.

References

1. Cook, L.J. (1947). Pasture improvement in South Australia. *J. Dep. Agric. S. Aust.* **50**, 292-9.
2. Tiver, N.S. (1954). Strawberry clover. *J. Dep. Agric. S. Aust.* **57**, 317-25.