

# Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

## A. Grasses

### 6. Panic

*Panicum coloratum* var. *makarikariense* Goosens (Makarikari grass) cv. Pollock

Reg. No. A-6a-2

Registered prior to December 1971

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#### Origin

Derived from seed introduced by the Soil Conservation Service of New South Wales from the Department of Agriculture of South Africa. The introduction was received under the label "Makarikari No. 2 1947, Rietvlei" and given the Soil Conservation Service number 383 (1). It was tested in nurseries at Scone, Gunnedah, and Inverell. At Inverell it showed considerable promise on the black earths and was described as being "the best of the Makarikaris so far observed especially s seed setting is as good as any other line in this group" (2). Material from the Soil Conservation Service of New South Wales plots was tested by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Stock as a forage species in the late 1950s on the black clay soils of the Darling Downs (5). Observations were in general agreement with those of the N.S.W. Soil Conservation Service. Following extensive propagation and seed production by a private farmer, Mr. E. Stiller of Guluguba, the cultivar was named and released by the Queensland Pasture Liaison Committee in 1961.

#### Morphological description (1, 3)

Cv. Pollock differs from Bambatsi in habit and growth characteristics. It is a leafy ascending type, stoloniferous from the lowermost 3-4 nodes. It is strongly tussocky but when grown in spaced sward conditions develops crowns from 90-180 cm in diameter. Culms robust, well branched, glaucous, erect to height of 1.2 m. Leaves smaller than in Bambatsi with lamina 30-38 cm long, 9 mm wide. Inflorescence panicle nodding, loose but denser than in Bambatsi but still with lowermost branch solitary; also tendency to whorled branching above. Glumes more intensely purpled toward apex. Other morphological characters as in Bambatsi.

Some 80% of the population have the semi-stoloniferous habit described above, the remainder vary from the more erect, less stoloniferous Bambatsi type to more prostrate and stoloniferous forms (3).

#### Agronomic characters (1-5)

Similar to cv. Bambatsi in general performance and adaptability. Its ability to produce crowns from 90 cm to 180 cm in diameter is a desirable character from a soil conservation viewpoint, particularly where waterlogging can occur (this moisture regime promoting the development of large crowns). Its palatability is similar to cv. Bambatsi. Less susceptible to frost than cv. Bambatsi if grazed heavily in autumn. Uneven seed ripening and shatter occur as in cv. Bambatsi, but seed set is poorer and seed yield approximately half.

#### References

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3. Lloyd, D.L. (1966). Personal communication. Qld Wheat Res. Inst., Dep. Primary Ind., Toowoomba.
4. Lloyd, D.L., and Scateni, W. (1968). Makarikari grasses for heavy soils. *Qd agric. J.* **94**(12),721-4.
5. Wilson, R.G. (1963). Bambatsi grass for Downs and Brigalow. *Qd agric. J.* **89**, 118-19.