

Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

A. Grasses

2. Ryegrass

Lolium perenne L. (perennial ryegrass) cv. Tasmanian No. 1

Reg. No. A-2a-2

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Origin (1)

This line originated from an old, highly productive, 27-yr-old pasture on the property of Mr. F.L. Gaffrey at Ulverstone, Tasmania. It was among a number of regional selections grown initially in 1953-54 at Cressy Research Station, and after a series of further trials, emerged as the most satisfactory line of perennial ryegrass for Tasmanian conditions. It was released and certified by the Department of Agriculture of Tasmania in 1958.

Morphological description (1, 3)

Tasmanian No. 1 is a dark green, vigorous, leafy, dense, semi-erect type of mid-season maturity. Under conditions of high fertility it forms a denser more even sward than Grasslands Ruanui by virtue of increased tillering and slightly more prostrate habit under grazing.

Agronomic characters

It is adapted to much the same climatic and soil conditions as cv. Grasslands Ruanui and flowers at the same time. However, trials at a number of locations have shown that it is superior to the Grasslands cultivar under Tasmanian conditions (1, 2). In trials carried out at 17 locations over 8 years with rainfall varying from 483 mm to 1118 mm, the total annual and seasonal dry-matter production of Tasmanian No. 1 was greater than that of Grasslands Ruanui. The relative increases were greatest in autumn as a result of the ability of Tasmanian No. 1 to respond more rapidly and effectively to rainfall after a dry period (3, 4). It has also been more persistent under dry conditions (3) but appears more susceptible to rust (*Puccinia coronata*).

Tasmanian No. 1 is more leafy and generally more productive than cv. Victorian for all periods except winter in medium to high rainfall areas in Tasmania (3); whilst in areas of less than 760 mm rainfall only its summer production exceeds that of cv. Victorian (4).

Cv. Tasdale however, has outyielded cv. Tasmanian No. 1 at all seasons at every site of trial, the greatest differences occurring in autumn and winter growth and in the less than 760-mm rainfall regions (4).

References

1. Martin, G.J. (1959). Investigations on strains of perennial ryegrass. *Tasm. J. Agric.* **30**, 77-87.
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3. Martin, G.J. (1970). Grasses for improved pastures. *Tasm. J. Agric.* **41**, 10-14.
4. Martin, G.J. (1971). Tasdale - a new perennial ryegrass. *Tasm. J. Agric.* **42**, 80-3.