Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

A. Grasses
2. Ryegrass
*Lolium perenne* L. (perennial ryegrass) cv. Tasmanian No. 1

Reg. No. A-2a-2
Registered prior to December 1971

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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 that 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**