

Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

A. Grasses

2. Ryegrass

Lolium perenne L. (perennial ryegrass) cv. Victorian

Reg. No. A-2a-4

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Origin

The cultivar consists of local ecotypes selected by the Victorian Department of Agriculture in the central and western districts of that state. Old, long-established paddocks in which perennial ryegrass had persisted for many years were selected for certification on a paddock basis in 1936. (Drake 1942). For a number of years strains within the certified Victorian type were recognised and designated by the name of the town, e.g. Clunes, Colac, Kyneton, near their source of production. More recently, however, the recognition by farmers and merchants of strains within the certified Victorian cultivar has disappeared.

Morphological description

Victorian is a relatively early type, reasonable leafy and well tillered, and in general intermediate in these characters between Grasslands Ruanui and Kangaroo Valley (Martin 1970). It carries a higher proportion of fertile tillers than Grasslands Ruanui (Silsbury 1961).

Agronomic characters

Victorian is better adapted to the hot, dry summers of the Western district of Victoria than the quasi-indigenous unselected perennial ryegrass of the area and Grasslands Ruanui. It makes good growth in early spring and late autumn; it survives drought and is able to withstand a period of several hot, dry months under an annual rainfall of 560-710mm. Information from available trials suggests that it performs better in this area than other forms such as Grasslands Ruanui (Cade 1966, 1969).

On the Central Tablelands of New South Wales it is reported to have persisted and produced well, particularly in autumn and early spring, in areas of 560-710mm rainfall. Its survival was superior to that of Grasslands Ruanui (Smart and Simpson 1970). Evidence from South Australia also suggests that cv. Victorian is more persistent under hot, dry conditions than Grasslands Ruanui (Silsbury 1961). In Western Australia it has been persistent and productive under irrigation and in low-lying areas in high rainfall districts (Ryan 1966).

In Tasmania cv. Victorian has not performed as well as Tasmanian No. 1 in the higher rainfall areas but had proved more persistent and suitable for the lighter, drier soils with low rainfall, e.g. 500mm (Martin 1970). Under slightly higher rainfall conditions cv. Tasdale out-yielded Victorian, particularly in summer and autumn (Martin 1971).

It flowers several weeks (Martin 1963; Silsbury 1961) to a few days (Cade 1966) earlier than Grasslands Ruanui and has about the same susceptibility to rust as that variety.

References

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