Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

A. Grasses
13. Rhodes

*Chloris gayana* Kunth. (Rhodes grass) cv. Samford

Reg. No. A-13a-4
Registered September 1967

Published in the 2nd Edition of Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars 1972

Origin
This cultivar was derived from C.P.I.16144, introduced in 1952 from Musaia Stock Farm, Sierre Leone. The introduced seed sample represented surviving ecotypes from seed originally introduced to Sierre Leone from Kenya. It was approved for commercial release by the Queensland Pasture Liaison Committee in 1963. Submitted and recommended for registration by the Queensland Herbage Plant Liaison Committee. Registered September 1967.

Morphological description
Diffsers from Pioneer in its more vigorous stoloniferous habit (3) and somewhat larger and more numerous spikes, there being commonly 10-20 spikes 8-12 cm in length per inflorescence (2). Leaf width is similar to Pioneer. It is a tetraploid, chromosome number 2n = 40 (5). Like many of the Rhodes grasses (1) it is extremely variable when grown as spaced plants (4).

Agronomic characters (2-4)
Samford shows far more vigorous stoloniferous development than Pioneer. The flowering period is commonly April-May, enabling it to produce an abundance of leafy growth up until autumn in contrast to Pioneer. Production is comparable to or greater than Pioneer, though it is less frost-tolerant. Responses to nitrogen fertilization are good and it has performed well under irrigation. Seed production is good in quality and quantity. Its palatability is outstanding amongst the Rhodes grass group, even when it is in a mature dry state.

References