

Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

B. Legumes

1. Clover

***Trifolium subterraneum* ssp. *subterraneum* (Katzn. et Morley) Zohary and Heller (sub clover) cv. Seaton Park**

Reg. No. B-1d-10

Registered prior to December 1971

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Origin

This variety was first found at Seaton Park near Adelaide, S.A., and was originally described by Aitken and Drake (1). It was grown as a pasture for some 12 years at the CSIRO Research Station of Kojonup in Western Australia, where it performed favourably in comparison with a wide range of other sub clover varieties. First certified in Western Australia in 1967.

Morphological description (1,6)

The stems and petioles are rather thick, green to red-brown in colour, while the leaflets are slightly pale green in colour, pubescent on both upper and lower surfaces. Leaflet markings: central mark pale green and well developed, white arms present extending to edges of leaflet, forming a well-defined crescent. Anthocyanin pigmentation often present around edges of crescent in early leaves, but usually absent at later growth stages; anthocyanin flecking over leaf surface generally absent. Few hairs only on upper surface of leaf, but hairy on lower surface. Stipules green with faint greenish brown diffused anthocyanin coloration in lower part. Flower corolla white with red veins on standard; calyx tube light green. Seedling, central mark and arms well defined on unifoliate leaf.

Agronomic characters (2-6)

It is early mid season in maturity, flowering late August-early September, about the same time as Yarloop and Dinninup, and a little earlier than Woogenellup. Seed formation is normally completed by late October (6). It is best suited to areas with a mean annual rainfall of 580-760 mm and an effective growing season of 6.5 months or longer.

Grown as spaced plants, herbage and seed yields are comparable with other cultivars of sub clover of the same maturity (3,4); it probably compares similarly in sward performance. It persists well in competition with many other lines of sub clover and can resist invasion by other lines (5). It normally buries its burrs and has a satisfactory degree of hardseededness (6). Rhizobial requirements are the same as Mt. Barker (q.v.). Reported to have proved better than Daliak and as productive as Woogenellup in trials in the southern Wimmera region in Victoria (2).

Oestrogenic potency is low (6).

References

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4. Rossiter, R.C. (1959). The influence of maturity grading on total yield and seed production in strains of *Trifolium subterraneum* L. grown as single plants and in swards. *Aust. J. Agric. Res.* **10**, 305-21.
5. Rossiter, R.C. (1966). The success or failure of strains of *Trifolium subterraneum* L. in a Mediterranean environment. *Aust. J. Agric. Res.* **17**, 425-46.
6. Quinlivan, B.J., Francis, C.M., and Poole, M.L. (1968). The certified strains of subterranean clover. *J. Agric. West. Aust.* **9**(4th Ser.), 161-77.