

# Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

## B. Legumes

### 1. Clover

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

Reg. No. B-1d-3

Registered prior to December 1971

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#### Origin

A naturally occurring line, discovered on the properties "Riverlea" and "Mundara" of Messrs A.C. Head & Son at Tallarook, Vic., in 1928 (4). It was examined at the Burnley Pasture Plant Research Station by the Victorian Department of Agriculture (4). Harvested in commercial quantities for the first time in 1935. First certified in 1935 in Tasmania, 1936 in Victoria, 1943 in Western Australia, 1952-53 in New South Wales, and 1950-51 in South Australia.

#### Morphological description (1,2,4)

Grown as spaced plants forms many runners (19-25) with short internodes; produces many laterals (10-12) per runner; and the short laterals may branch once or twice. The numerous short runners and much-branching habit give a densely foliated plant with a high leaf-stem ratio. The leaflets are moderately hairy on upper surface. During winter whilst the plant is in the rosette stage, there is a well-marked pale green central area with white arms extending in crescent form to the edges of the leaflets, and anthocyanin pigment forms a fringe of brown around the crescent and a chocolate area below it. In subsequent growth during warmer weather the anthocyanin pigmentation is not present and the leaves bear only a faint white crescent, or may be completely without markings. Stipules are green with no red coloration. First flower occurs at 16th or 17th node in late season (mid October). Calyx tube and lobes are pale green with no hairs. Seedling characters as in cv. Mt. Barker but hypocotyl with faint to moderate pigmentation; cotyledons slightly flecked; juvenile leaf sometimes with pale green central dot and white arms extending to edge of leaf, these markings being fringed with anthocyanin which is also present in small basal area. First trifoliate leaf marked as leaves of older plants (1,7,11).

#### Agronomic characters (2,4,10)

Cv. Tallarook is late-flowering (almost mid October), some one or two weeks after Mt. Barker. It makes poor growth during winter and remains in the rosette stage longer than most other varieties. Spring and early summer growth are good under suitable conditions where early summer temperatures are mild, relative humidity moderately high, and the rainfall is 635-760 mm. In the eastern States an effective growing period of 8.5-9 months is required but in Western Australia a 7-month growing season is adequate (9). Best suited to soils which are acid or neutral in reaction. It seeds heavily and a high proportion of burr is usually not buried. Its rhizobial requirement for satisfactory nodulation is the same as cv. Mt. Barker (q.v.). Reported to be less productive and persistent than Mt. Barker, Bacchus Marsh, and Woogenellup in Tasmania (6).

Cv. Tallarook contains high levels of oestrogens and is likely to cause sheep infertility; for dairying and beef-cattle pasturage the oestrogen content is of no consequence.

Reported to be resistant to attack by leaf rust (5) but actually a little less susceptible than Mt. Barker and about as susceptible as Bacchus Marsh (8). Highly resistant to clover stunt virus (3).

## References

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