

# Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

## A. Grasses

### 10. Pennisetum

#### *Pennisetum glaucum* (L.) R. Br. (pearl millet) cv. Tamworth

Reg. No. A-10b-2

Registered September 1967

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#### Origin

This cultivar originated from a selection made at the Tamworth Agricultural Research Station in New South Wales. The selection was made after three generations of inbreeding of the progeny of a selected F3 plant of the cultivar Gahi-I (Georgia hybrid No. 1). Gahi was developed in Georgia, U.S.A., and is the hybrid that results from the crossing of four inbred lines when sown together in equal proportions (2). The F3 material from which the pedigree selection and inbreeding was commenced could be regarded in itself as a fairly stable synthetic variety, though containing sufficient variability for selection to be effective.

It was submitted by the New South Wales Department of Agriculture and recommended by the New South Wales Herbage Plant Liaison Committee for registration. It was registered September 1967.

#### Morphological description

Mid season to late in maturity - flowered on 20 Feb. from a 26 Oct. sowing at Tamworth in 1962. Tillers well, grows 2-3 m tall, and stems are of moderate diameter and normally not prone to lodging. Leaves are medium to broad and glabrous. This cultivar does not have the purple pigmentation in stems and leaf sheaths common in other pearl millets.

#### Agronomic characters

Cv. Tamworth was selected for earliness and its earliness is sufficient to enable seed production to be undertaken in New South Wales. It has seed production possibilities as shown by the fact that under irrigation at Narrabri Agricultural Research Station, yield obtained was estimated at 3923 kg per ha. In trials at 5 coastal locations in New South Wales it gave a mean dry matter yield of 9683 kg per ha which was greater than the yields of Katherine Pearl and Ingrid Pearl; at three inland centres it gave slightly less yields than the other two cultivars (1). It is proving useful for late summer-autumn grazing throughout coastal districts. It is susceptible to bacterial leaf spot (*Pseudomonas syringae*).

#### References

1. Boyle, J.W., and Johnson, R.I. (1968). Pearl millet. New summer forage crop in New South Wales. *Agric. Gaz. N.S.W.* **79**(9), 513-15.
2. Burton, Glenn W. (1962). Registration of varieties of other grasses. Gahi-I Pearl Millet (Reg. No. 6). *Crop Sci.* **2**, 355-6.