

Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

A. Grasses

12. Buffel

Cenchrus ciliaris L. (buffel grass) cv. Tarewinnabar

Reg. No. A-12a-6

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Origin

Developed from a small sample of seed (C.P.I.13246) introduced from Kenya in 1950. The records of the Plant Introduction Section, CSIRO, note that this sample was of "an erect form occurring naturally at the inner fringes of the Acacia-Themeda vegetation of the highlands and in the desert grass-bush community". Following successful testing by the CSIRO Division of Tropical Pastures, and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries at a number of sites, including that of W.A. Gunn, "Tarewinnabar", near Goondiwindi, Qld., it was released by the Queensland Pasture Liaison Committee in 1962.

Morphological description (3)

Cv. Tarewinnabar is a tall, erect, vigorous-growing, rhizomatous type, similar in most respects to *Biloela*. Its leaves, however, are green instead of glaucous; the leaf sheaths are not glabrous but have ciliate margins and usually long hairs scattered away from the margins; the ligule is short at 1.3-1.5 mm long. The culms are 7-10-noded, but a little coarser than those of *Biloela*, and the peduncle is rough for some distance below the inflorescence. The inflorescence is pallid to red-coloured and the spikelets are densely packed on the rachis.

Agronomic characters (2,4)

This variety has a similar growth rhythm to *Biloela* but tends to grow faster in early spring, is taller, and flowers slightly later. Seedling vigour is very good and rhizomes are formed earlier than in other varieties. Branching of the culms is also more pronounced. Its seeds are relatively heavy. It has been tested in the gidyea forest region and in many subcoastal districts of Queensland. It was the most flood-tolerant of a number of buffel varieties tested (1).

References

1. Anderson, E.R. (1970). Pasture for flooded brigalow country. 2. *Qd. Agric. J.* **96**(5), 331-4.
2. Bisset, W.J. (1963). There's a place for sown pastures in the Central West, *Qd. Agric. J.* **89**, 282-8.
3. Blake, S.T. (1967). Personal communication. Herbarium, Botanic Gdns, Brisbane.
5. Humphreys, L.R. (1967). Buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris* L.) in Australia. *Trop. Grassl.* **1**(2), 123-34.