

# Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

## A. Grasses

### 9. Forage Sorghum

#### *Sorghum vulgare* Pers. (sweet sorghum) cv. Tracy

Reg. No. A-9b-6

Registered prior to December 1971

*Published in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars 1972*

#### Origin

This variety was released and distributed for syrup production in the U.S.A. in 1953 by the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station. It originated from a cross between White African and Sumac made by H.N. Vinall of the United States Department of Agriculture in 1923. Selection was done by H.N. Vinall, J.C. Stephens, and J.R. Quinby at Chillicothe, Texas, and the selection was purified and released at the Experiment Station, Mississippi. Seed was introduced by the New South Wales Department of Agriculture in 1954 and was first certified in 1961 (1). It was also introduced from Chillicothe in Texas to Queensland in 1961 (3).

#### Morphological description (1,2)

Cv. Tracy has the same general morphological characters as Saccaline. It is as tall as that variety and has very erect culms of medium diameter; its leaf growth is rather sparse, however, in comparison to its height. The panicle is small, erect, compact, and cylindrical. The glumes are brown-black and small; the lemmas are awnless. The seed approx. 44,000 per kg, dark reddish brown in colour, and duller than Saccaline; it projects well past the glume and is generally obovoid to globose. There is no brown nucellar layer.

#### Agronomic characters (1,3,4)

Cv. Tracy is late-maturing, flowering about two weeks after Saccaline and about the same time as White African. It resists lodging. Its stems are juicy with a high sugar content, palatable, and hold their juiciness well into winter. Its leaves are generally free from disease, being highly resistant to leaf anthracnose, red rot, rust, and several bacterial diseases. It has yielded as well as Early Orange, Sugardrip, and Saccaline in New South Wales; it has also performed well in southern Queensland but has not done as well in central coastal Queensland.

#### References

1. Boyle, J.W. (1966). Personal communication. N.S.W. Dep. Agric., Sydney.
2. Karper, R.E. (1955). Registration of Sorghum varieties. VIII. Tracy (Reg. No. 106). *Agron. J.* 47, 540.
3. Moore, R.F. (1966). Personal communication. Hermitage Res. Stn, Dep. Primary Ind., Qld.
4. Queensland Department of Primary Industries. Unpublished records.