

Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

B. Legumes

1. Serradella

a. *Ornithopus compressus* L. (yellow serradella)

cv. Uniserra

Reg. No. B-11a-2

Registered May 1970

Published in the 2nd. ed. of the Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars, 1972

Origin

Derived from cv. Pitman as an artificially induced mutant, following seed treatment with ethylmethanesulphonate in 1962 (3), in a breeding program conducted by Dr. J.S. Gladstones at the Institute of Agriculture, University of Western Australia. Pedigree selected for vigour and fertility through the M3-M6 generations, multiplied as M7 and M8 bulks in 1968-69, and released to commercial seed producers in 1971. Recommended for registration by the Western Australia Herbage Plant Liaison Committee. Registered May 1970.

Morphological description

Similar to Pitman but in late winter-early spring is slightly lighter green and less prostrate.

Agronomic characters

Flowers 3-4 weeks, and matures 1-2 weeks earlier than Pitman. Equals Pitman in growth rate and general vigour, but total dry matter is slightly lower under extended growing-season conditions due to earlier maturity. Seed yield is higher than that of Pitman under most conditions, and substantially so in short growing seasons. As far as is known, Uniserra is similar to Pitman in soil requirements and other respects (1, 2). It retains the full vernalisation responsiveness of Pitman (3). The limits of cultivation are not yet known, but on maturity basis Uniserra should be adapted to districts of Western Australia with an annual rainfall 330-360 mm or more. It could replace Pitman in parts of the latter's range where annual rainfall is less than about 500-600 mm.

References

1. Cariss, H.G., and Quinlivan, B.J. (1967). Serradella. *J. Agric. West. Aust.* **8**(4th Ser.), 226-34).
2. Gladstone, J.S., and Barrett-Lennard, R.A. (1964). Serradella – a promising pasture legume in Western Australia. *J. Aust. Inst. Agric. Sci.* **30**, 258-62.
3. Gladstone, J.S., and Devitt, A.C. (1971). Breeding and testing early-flowering strains of yellow-flowered serradella (*Ornithopus compressus*). *Aust. J. Exp. Agric. Anim. Husb.* **11**, 431-9.