

Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

A. Grasses

9. Forage Sorghum

Sorghum spp. hybrid. (forage sorghum hybrids) cv. Zulu

Reg. No. A-9d-2

Registered prior to December 1971

Published in the 2nd Edition of Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars 1972

Origin

Zulu is the F1 cross between the male sterile Redlan grain sorghum and Greenleaf Sudan grass (1). It was produced at the Hermitage and Biloela Research Stations of the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and released in 1963 (1). Redlan was bred by J.B. Sieglenger of the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station (3), and Greenleaf by intercrosses of Sudan grass and sweet sorghum lines at the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station (4). Seed of the parents used for producing the hybrid Zulu is maintained by the Hermitage Research Station. Certified seed of Zulu has been produced on the property of C. Ziebell, Mt. Tyson, Qld.

Morphological description (1)

The hybrid grows taller than the Greenleaf Sudan grass parent and has a coarser stem, although in general appearance it is closer to the Sudan grass parent than to the grain parent. Tillering is intermediate between the parents. The stem is erect, soft when young, sweet, and juicy. The inflorescences are open and spreading, irregular in outline. The glumes are black, large, and tightly enclose the grain; small tip awns are present. The grain is brown with a dark brown subcoat; it is dorsiventrally flattened, oval in shape, and slightly pointed; approx. 40,000 per kg.

Agronomic characters (1,2)

Zulu is agronomically similar to Sudax SX-11A. It is capable of rapid early growth, of quickly producing a large bulk of green material, and of good recovery after mowing or grazing. In trials over two seasons at several sites in Queensland, Zulu gave fodder yields comparable with Sudax SX-11A, higher than *Sorghum almum*, cv. Crooble, and considerably higher than SS.6 sweet Sudan. When grown for summer grazing at several sites in New South Wales it yielded much the same as Sudax SX-11A and much higher than the sweet Sudan grasses Lahoma and SS.6, under both irrigated and dry land conditions. When grown for autumn and winter forage it gave slightly better yields than Sudax SX-11A under irrigation, the same as several sweet sorghum varieties under dry land conditions, and much greater under irrigation.

References

1. Fletcher, D.S., Henzell, R.G., and Moore, R.F. (1965). Zulu - a new grazing sorghum. *Qd. Agric. J.* **91**, 238-41.
2. Imrie, B.C. (1966). Forage sorghums - new hybrids now available. *Agric. Gaz. N.S.W.* **77**, 601-3.
3. Karper, R.E. (1954). Registration of Sorghum varieties. VII. Redlan (Reg. No. 102). *Agron. J.* **46**, 526-7.
4. Karper, R.E. (1955). Registration of Sorghum varieties. VIII. Greenleaf (Reg. No. 105). *Agron. J.* **47**, 540.