

Evaluation of Birdsfood Trefoil Varieties / Lotus
corniculatus L. / in Polish conditions

Zbigniew L. Broda

Institute of Genetics and Plant Breeding
Academy of Agriculture Poznań / Poland/

Eight varieties of birdsfood trefoil were evaluated in Polish soil and climate conditions. Two varieties originated from Canada and two from the USA and one from West Germany and New Zealand. Polish varieties were checks.

The aim of the studies was to reveal differences between varieties in growth and development of birdsfood trefoil of various origin. The varieties were sown in 1982 in Agricultural Experimental Station-Swadzim of Academy of Agriculture in Poznań.

The experiments were designed in random blocks in four replication. The plot was spaced 6 m².

The seeds were sown on 20 April 1982 in light-sandy soil. Germination appeared evenly in all varieties after 14 days. Differentiation of varieties appeared at the leaf rosette stage. Exuberant growth, large leaf rosettes and also great number of flower shoots were characteristic of Cree, Viking, Empire and Odenewald varieties. These varieties were also characterized by high yield of dry matter and seeds /Tab.1/.

The habit and height in Empire and Odenewald varieties did not differ from those in checks.

Cree and Viking were higher and more exuberant than Skrzyszowicka and Puławska varieties.

Leo and Maku varieties were characterized by slower growth, smaller number of leaves per rosette and smaller number of flower shoots. This factor definitely lowered the yielding of seeds and the yield of dry matter of these varieties. The pejorative characteristic of all varieties was the fall of seeds approximately 10% at harvest. Viking, Empire, Cree and Odenewald varieties have been included to cross-breeding programme.

Table 1.

Evaluation of Birdsfoot Trefoil Varieties in Poland
/1982/83/

No	Variety	Country of origin	Seed Yield kg/ha	Dry Matter ^x kg/ha	Flowering ^{xx} time
1.	Cree	Canada	72	9483	6/6
2.	Leo	Canada	54	9125	15/6
3.	Viking	USA	68	10460	4/6
4.	Empire	USA	78	9694	10/6
5.	Odenewald	West Germ	72	9837	8/6
6.	Haku	many N.Z.	37	5240	14/6
7.	Fukawska	Poland	75	9794	8/6
8.	Skrzeszowicka	"-	87	10210	10/6
LSD _{0,05}			23	724	

x - Dry matter cut was taken at harvest

xx - Time of flowering when about 10% plants had flowered