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Seed yield components in domestic varieties of birdsfoot trefoil

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Summary

The time and duration of flowering as well as the number of umbels, shoots and pods per plant, 1000seed weight, and percent of dehisced pods were determined in three birdsfoot trefoil varieties Bursztyn, Puławska and Skrzeszowicka in two series of experiments, each grown for three years, carried out in 1976-1979. The number of umbels and pod per plants and the percent of dehisced pods had a significant effect on the seed yield /r=0.40, 0.81, and -0.57 respectively/ These traits were modified by variation of the population composition, weather conditions and plant age. A high variability of these traits within varieties rendered differences among varieties non-significant. In spite of a high variability and weak repeatibility of the seed yield /r_w=0.27/ observed in the studied populations as many as 3.3% /Bursztyn, Puławska/ to 10.0% /Skrzeszowicka/of plants representing a high seed yield and low pod dehiscence were sceened out. These results indicate the correlation breakers may be found in birdsfoot trefoil populations supplying initial material for breeding varieties resistant to pod dehiscence.

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