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GERMPLASM RELEASES OF BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL

Three germplasm pools of birdsfoot trefoil (Lotus corniculatus) were jointly released recently by the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station and the Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Registration notices have been prepared for publication in 'Crop Science'. A brief description of each release follows.

Virginia Synthetic Number 10 was constituted from five elite clones, four of which were selected in Virginia on basis of vigor and persistence from P.I. 157531 (Italy), P.I. 188556 (Yugoslavia), P.I. 230190 (Denmark), and 'Viking'. One clone was from P. R. Henson, ARS, Beltsville, MD. The strain is early and semi-erect with disease tolerance. It has yielded and persisted well under hay and pasture management when grown with several grasses in Virginia, but has not been extensively tested elsewhere.

'Group B' germplasm pool resulted from natural intercrossing 42 clones remaining after six two-year cycles of phenotypic recurrent selection in Virginia. The strain is intermediate in decumbency between 'Viking' and 'Empire' cultivars. Plants are vigorous and produce seed abundantly under adequate pollination. It was selected for tolerance to root and crown diseases. Plants from the strain are suitable for hay or pasture use with an area of adaptation which includes the Appalachian Highlands and the Mid-Atlantic area.

'Group H' germplasm pool was the result of naturally intercrossing 28 clones remaining after six two-year cycles of phenotypic recurrent selection. Plants are erect or semi-erect like 'Viking', are vigorous, and have been selected for root and crown rot tolerance. Hay yields have been good and the strain is also suited for rotational grazing in a grass-legume mixture. This strain and 'Group B' have both been shown to possess general combining ability (G.C.A.) effects for yield and percent survival. 'Group B' also exhibited G. C. A. for disease score and specific combining ability effects for second, third, and total yield (Lotus Newsletter 5:15. 1974).

Limited amounts of seed (up to 10 g) are available from the author on written request and agreement to appropriately recognize its source openly when these strains contribute to the development of an improved variety.