



Seed Genetics

Canterbury White Clover

Origin and Breeding

The variety 'Canterbury' was developed by Seed Genetics Australia over three cycles of recurrent mass selection primarily from among selections from 'Grasslands Huia, with some contribution of other European origin hollandicum type white clovers. Plants were selected from diverse locations from basis of moderate winter production, early flowering, increased density of inflorescence production, stoloniferous growth habit and high seed yield.

Through selection, effort was made to maintain or increase peduncle length, maintain small to moderate leaf size, increased stoloniferous growth ability to withstand hard grazing, and to increase fodder production late in winter, spring, summer and late autumn than its parents

Selected plants were transferred to polycross blocks for reselection on fodder production, flowering characteristics, morphology and seed production. Progenies were reselected in a nursery in which undesirable plants were eliminated and survivors were allowed to cross pollinate to produce seed. Various phases of the program were conducted at Canberra, ACT, Moruya, NSW and Frances, South Australia.

Agronomic characters

'Canterbury' is most readily distinguished from the parent 'Huia' by its increased frequency of early flowering plants, a higher number of inflorescences and increased seed and forage production.

'Canterbury' is slightly more **winter active (rating 4/5) than 'Huia' (rating 3)**. Therefore 'Canterbury' is able to provide more autumn winter spring grazing in regions which experience heavy frosts in winter. It is adapted to cool temperate climates with summer rainfall or irrigation, 'Mediterranean-type' conditions to sub-tropical environments. 'Canterbury' is moderately early flowering, beginning flowering after 'Haifa', but before 'Huia' and 'Will' ladino.

In a trial in the Apsley (Victoria) district in 2003-04, 'Canterbury' averaged 3.0 tonnes/hectare and 'Huia' yielded 2.7 t/ha, **an advantage of 11% to 'Canterbury'**. 'Canterbury' has a high density of stems providing an ability to quickly recover from cutting and grazing.

'Canterbury' has also been entered in a trial conducted by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries at Gatton, in South East Queensland. Plots were cut at 4 week intervals during the first winter. Under these conditions 'Canterbury' averaged 1.55 t/ha and 'Huia'-type experimental varieties averaged 1.44 t/ha over three cuts in July and August 2004. This showed an **8% yield advantage to 'Canterbury'**. The winter dormancy of both varieties contributed to their producing less than winter-active 'SuperHaifa' under winter conditions.

Following its initial performance, 'Canterbury' is undergoing extensive testing in trials in Europe. Seed production is in progress and it is expected that seed will be available for farm sowing early in 2006.

Canterbury is protected under Plant Breeders Rights in Australia.

For more information please visit our website

<http://www.seedgeneticsaustralia.com>