Seed Genetics

SuperLadino Clover

Origin and Breeding

The variety 'SuperLadino' was developed by Seed Genetics Australia Pty Ltd by three cycles of recurrent mass selection from ladino clover varieties. Clones had been selected on the basis of vigour, yield and varietal characteristics.

In each generation undesirable plants were eliminated and plants were selected on fodder production, flowering characteristics, morphology, disease resistance, and seed production. Emphasis was placed on the 'Ladino' type coupled with early flowering. Progenies were reselected in nurseries in which 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

'SuperLadino' is most readily distinguished from the Ladino-type varieties Regal and Will by its increased frequency of early flowering plants, shorter and thinner petioles, and thinner peduncles which produce higher quality forage, the leaves have more pronounced pale white leaf markings, a higher number of inflorescences and increased seed production. 'SuperLadino' also has longer leaflets, larger leaves, greater petiole length and width and greater numbers of inflorescences produced in spring. It also tends to have a denser plant sward than Regal or Will Ladino

'SuperLadino' is more winter active (rating 6) than 'Will' ladino (rating 4). Therefore 'SuperLadino' is able to provide more winter grazing in regions which experience moderate frosts in winter. It is adapted to temperate and 'Mediterranean-type' climates to sub-tropical environments. It is early flowering, beginning flowering at a similar time as 'Haifa', and considerably earlier than 'Huia' Regal and 'Will' ladino. SuperLadino' has a high density of stems providing an ability to quickly recover from cutting and grazing.

Yields

In trials in the Frances (South Australia) and Apsley (Victoria) districts 'SuperLadino' averaged 4.2 tonnes/hectare and 'Will' yielded 3.7 t/ha, an advantage of 14% to 'SuperLadino'.
'SuperLadino' 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 'SuperLadino' averaged 1.48 t/ha and 'Will' averaged 1.46 t/ha .

Following its outstanding initial performance, particularly in summer production, 'SuperLadino' is undergoing extensive testing in trials in the USA Europe, Argentina and Uruguay. Seed production is in progress and it is expected that seed will be available from 2006.

SuperLadino is protected under Plant Breeders Rights

For more information please visit our website

http://www.seedgeneticsaustralia.com