



Seed Genetics Australia

SuperAurora Alfalfa

Origin and Breeding

'SuperAurora' was developed by Seed Genetics Australia Pty Ltd by selection among survivors from old fields of 'Aurora'. Plants were selected on plant characteristics, superior fodder yield, reliable seed production and improved disease and pest resistance. In each cycle of selection plants with superior features were retained and others were eliminated before flowering

The Australian variety 'Aurora' has performed very well in New South Wales and Argentina. The aim was to produce a broadly adapted and high yielding variety by selection of superior plants from within a proven variety. Traditional breeding methods were used to develop 'SuperAurora'.

Agronomic characters

Plants are moderately tall with semi-erect leafy stems. 'SuperAurora' plants are moderately winter active (rating 6) with strong summer growth, vigorous recovery from cutting or grazing and good survival under grazing. It is early flowering with flowers varying from light to dark blue. In resistance to pests and diseases 'SuperAurora' is superior to 'Aurora' (see table 1). Independent tests for levels of resistance in 'SuperAurora' were conducted by Crop Characteristics Inc. MN, USA.

Table 1 Disease and pest resistance of 'SuperAurora' and 'Aurora'

	Spotted aphid	Blue aphid	Pea aphid	Phytophthora	Anthraco
SuperAurora	HR*	HR	R	HR	MR
Aurora	HR	MR	MR	R	R

* HR – highly resistant, R – resistant, MR – moderate resistant and S - susceptible

In a comprehensive trial established at Keith in South Australia in 2003, the performance of 28 varieties and elite lines were compared in an irrigated replicated field trial. The yield of 'SuperAurora' over three years of trials the fodder yield was 10% more than 'Aurora' and other comparable varieties (see below).

SuperAurora	2.33 t/ha
Aurora	2.12 t/ha
Genesis	2.08 t/ha
Sardi 7	2.05 t/ha
LSD (5%)	0.27 t/ha.

The above trials indicate the 'SuperAurora' is clearly more productive and more pest and disease resistant than its parent variety 'Aurora'.

SuperAurora is protected under Plant Breeders Rights.

For more information please visit our website.

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