



Seed Genetics Australia

SuperSiriver Alfalfa

Origin and Breeding

'SuperSiriver' was developed by Seed Genetics Australia Pty Ltd by recurrent mass selection among disease-resistant survivors from old fields of 'Siriver'. 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 parent of 'SuperSiriver', the Australian variety 'Siriver', has been the most widely grown and exported variety in Australia since it was released in 1980. It was selected as the parent of the new variety particularly because of its broad adaptation and high fodder yield in both Australian and international markets. 'SuperSiriver' is more productive and has higher levels of disease and pest resistance than its parent. This was achieved through traditional breeding methods.

Agronomic characters

Plants are moderately tall, semi-erect with finer leafier stems with high stem to leaf ratio. Fodder quality tests conducted on hay samples have shown a **11% increase in digestible material** and a **7% increase in protein** over Siriver.

'SuperSiriver' plants are **winter active (rating 8/9)** with strong autumn and spring growth and vigorous recovery from cutting or grazing. It is early flowering with flowers varying from light to dark blue, rarely white. In resistance to pests and diseases 'SuperSiriver' is superior to 'Siriver' in **particular to phytophthora** (see table 1). Independent tests for levels of resistance in 'SuperSiriver' were conducted by Crop Characteristics Inc. MN, USA to international standards.

Table 1 Disease and pest resistance of 'SuperSiriver' and 'Siriver'

	Spotted aphid	Blue aphid	Pea aphid	Phytophthora	Anthracoise
SuperSiriver	R*	HR	HR	R	MR
Siriver	HR	R	HR	S	S

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

In a replicated cutting trial in irrigated stands of 'SuperSiriver' and 'Siriver', over 3 cuts the yield was:

'SuperSiriver'	4.00 t/ha
'Siriver'	3.45 t/ha
LSD (5%)	0.34 t/ha

In this trial the 'SuperSiriver' yield was **16% higher than the 'Siriver'**. In the official entry trials conducted in Argentina SuperSiriver outyielded Siriver and the check variety **Monarca by between 7 and 10%**.

SuperSiriver has now become one of the **main varieties exported overall** from Australia in the space of three years, thereby proving its worth and acceptance.

SuperSiriver is protected under Plant Breeders Rights.

For more information please refer to our website

<http://www.seedgeneticsaustralia.com>