REGISTRATION OF ALFALFA CLONES WITH CYTOPLASMIC STERILITY AND MAINTAINER GERMLASM (1) (Reg. Nos. GP 11 to 14)

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Male sterile clones U-1292A (Reg. No. GP 11) and U-1293A (Reg. No. GP 12), and maintainer clones U-55B (Reg. No. GP13) and U-2B (Reg. No. GP14) (3) were developed at Logan, Utah, and released in 1968 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station. The male steriles were isolated from `DuPuits' alfalfa (Medicago sativa L.) and were characterized by nondehiscent anthers and a low percentage of stainable pollen. No seed was obtained from selling U-1292A and its pollen was nonfunctional in crosses with a recessive marker line. Nine seeds were obtained from extensive selfing of U-1293A as well as a few hybrids from crossing onto a recessive marker line. When U-1292A and U-1293A were crossed, no seeds were obtained. Both clones are vigorous, moderately good seed producers, and set an average number of seeds per pod when cross-pollinated by hand. Maintainer clone U-55B is one of the parents of `Uinta.' U-2B is from an open-pollinated progeny of A-225. These clones have moderate vigor, excellent seed production, a high percentage of stainable pollen, and normal anther dehiscence. Crosses between the A and B type plants gave a high percentage (average 93%) of male sterile plants. Male sterility in the backcrosses of the F1's to the B types was slightly less (average 85%). The cytoplasmic-genic male sterility mechanism incorporated in the above plant material makes possible the study of combining ability on a practical basis, the isolation of good combiners, and the production of commercial hybrids if certain problems can be overcome (4).

References

Registered by the Crop Science Society of America. Received July 3, 1970. A cooperative project of the Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Utah State Agricultural Experiment Station.


Also identified as Western Alfalfa Improvement Conference Nos. C1030, C1031, C926, C1029, respectively.