

Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

A. Grasses

13. Rhodes

Chloris gayana Kunth. (Rhodes grass) cv. Samford

Reg. No. A-13a-4

Registered September 1967

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Origin

This cultivar was derived from C.P.I.16144, introduced in 1952 from Musaia Stock Farm, Sierre Leone. The introduced seed sample represented surviving ecotypes from seed originally introduced to Sierre Leone from Kenya. It was approved for commercial release by the Queensland Pasture Liaison Committee in 1963. Submitted and recommended for registration by the Queensland Herbage Plant Liaison Committee. Registered September 1967.

Morphological description

Differs from Pioneer in its more vigorous stoloniferous habit (3) and somewhat larger and more numerous spikes, there being commonly 10-20 spikes 8-12 cm in length per inflorescence (2). Leaf width is similar to Pioneer. It is a tetraploid, chromosome number $2n = 40$ (5). Like many of the Rhodes grasses (1) it is extremely variable when grown as spaced plants (4).

Agronomic characters (2-4)

Samford shows far more vigorous stoloniferous development than Pioneer. The flowering period is commonly April-May, enabling it to produce an abundance of leafy growth up until autumn in contrast to Pioneer. Production is comparable to or greater than Pioneer, though it is less frost-tolerant. Responses to nitrogen fertilization are good and it has performed well under irrigation. Seed production is good in quality and quantity. Its palatability is outstanding amongst the Rhodes grass group, even when it is in a mature dry state.

References

1. Bogdan, A.V. (1961). Intra variety variation in Rhodes grass (*Chloris gayana* Kunth.) in Kenya. *J. Br. Grassld. Soc.* **16**, 238-9.
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4. Jones, R.J. (1967). Personal communication. Cunningham Lab., CSIRO Div. Trop. Pastures, St. Lucia, Qld.
5. Pritchard, A.J., and Gould, K.F. (1964). Chromosome numbers in some introduced and indigenous legumes and grasses. CSIRO Aust. Div. Trop. Past. Tech. Pap. No. 2.