



TETRAX

Meadow Fescue (4n)

Festuca pratensis Hudson

The first tetraploid meadow fescue variety bred by Agroscope

Things to know

Tetrax is the first tetraploid meadow fescue variety in Switzerland. Swards of Tetrax are less dense and have on average 6% less yield compared to the best diploid varieties. However, this is compensated by a vastly improved digestibility: On average, digestibility of organic matter of Tetrax is 20 g/kg higher compared to diploid varieties. Furthermore, Tetrax shows a very good resistance against leaf diseases, a good juvenile development and a good growth at high altitudes. These positive characteristics pushed Tetrax to the top of the 2008 to 2010 official variety trials in Switzerland.

Descent

Base material

Colchicine treatment of breeding material from RAC Changins

M0 seed

Row trial 2004 (FP0415) with seed harvest on 20 half-sib-families
Semis en lignes en 2004 (FP0415) avec récolte de semences sur 20 familles demi-sœurs

Literature

Suter D., Frick R., Hirschi H.-U., 2011. Sortenprüfung Wiesenschwingel: Bewährungsprobe für alt und neu. Agrarforschung Schweiz 2(6), 258-263

National listing

Situation in Switzerland

On the Swiss List of Recommended Varieties of Forage Plants since 2012

Situation abroad

FR (Representative: Semences Vertes)
AT

Agronomic characteristics

Results of the official Swiss variety trials 2008-2010
(Suter et al. 2011)

| | TETRAX | Mean |
|---------------------------------------|--------|------|
| Yield | 4.9 | 4.6 |
| General impression | 2.8 | 3.3 |
| Juvenile growth | 2.3 | 3.1 |
| Competing ability | 3.7 | 4.0 |
| Persistence | 3.0 | 3.2 |
| Resistance to winter conditions | 4.7 | 4.9 |
| Resistance to leafspots an rust | 2.1 | 3.1 |
| Digestibility of the organic matter | 3.7 | 5.3 |
| Persistence at higher altitudes | 3.2 | 3.9 |
| Index (weighted average of all notes) | 3.4 | 4.0 |

Scoring scale 1 = very good; 5 = medium; 9 = very poor
Yield Mean of 5 experimental sites over 2 years
Mean Mean value of standard varieties

Description according to UPOV guidelines

DUS test conducted at Scharnhorst, BSA (DE), 2010-2012

| UPOV No | Characteristics | State of expression | Note |
|---------|--|--------------------------------|------|
| 1 | Ploidy | tetraploid | 4 |
| 2 | Plant: vegetative growth habit (without vernalization) | intermediate to semi-prostrate | 6 |
| 4 | Leaf: color in the year of sowing | medium green to dark green | 6 |
| 8 | Time of inflorescence emergence (after vernalization) | medium to late | 6 |
| 11 | Plant: length of longest stem including inflorescence | long | 7 |
| 12 | Flag leaf: width | medium to wide | 6 |
| 14 | Flag leaf: length | medium to long | 6 |

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