

United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
Lexington, Kentucky
and the
United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
Ecological Science Division
Washington, District of Columbia
and the
Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station
Lexington, Kentucky

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF 'RHIZO' KURA CLOVER

The United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service, and the Kentucky Agriculture Experiment Station announce the naming and release of 'RHIZO' Kura Clover (Trifolium ambiguum Bieb.). It was developed by Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station, Lexington, Kentucky. This clover has been assigned the permanent number PI325489.

'RHIZO' was one of a collection of 18 perennial kura clover accessions assembled and evaluated at the Quicksand Plant Materials Center, and the University of Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station from 1972-1988. 'RHIZO' was released based on vigorous rhizomatous growth, and persistence. No disease, and insect problems have been observed. This is the first cultivar of kura clover to be released in the United States.

'RHIZO' has had limited investigations for forage quality and yield. A 1981 study in Rosemount Minnesota showed crude protein percent about equal to 'Spreader II' alfalfa, with in-vitro digestible dry matter 81.4% as compared to 71% for 'Spreader II' alfalfa. Seed production at Quicksand ranges from 100-200 pounds per acre.

Tests at the university of Kentucky during 1983-1985 show 'RHIZO' to yield more than zigzag clover, and less than red clover and alfalfa when managed for hay.

The highest potential use of 'RHIZO' kura clover appears to be primarily as a pasture legume. It's strongly spreading rhizomatous characteristic may help to maintain stands in pastures with grasses. Stand thickens with age.

Area of adaption for 'RHIZO' is similar to white clover. it has also been evaluated for stand and adaptation in Colorado, Hawaii, Louisiana, Ohio, and West Virginia. Two classes of seed beyond breeder seed are recognized: foundation and certified. Certified seed may be grown only from breeders or foundation seed. Breeders seed is maintained by the Soil Conservation Service, Plant Materials Center, Quicksand, Kentucky, and foundation seed by the Kentucky Foundation Seed Project, Department of Agronomy, and University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546.

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