

PUMA, A NEW CULTIVAR OF WINTER RYE

Puma winter rye was developed by the Plant Science Department, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Man., and licensed in Canada in March 1972. The outstanding features of this cultivar are its excellent winter hardiness, high yield, and large seed size. It is slightly shorter than Frontier and intermediate between Frontier and Cougar in maturity and lodging resistance (Table 1).

Distribution

Pedigreed and Breeders Seed will be distributed by the Department of Plant Science, University of Manitoba, in cooperation with the Manitoba Department of Agriculture and the Canadian Seed Growers Association in time for the 1972 fall planting. Breeders seed will be maintained by the Plant Science Department of the University of Manitoba.

Table 1. Agronomic comparison of Puma with Cougar and Frontier 1969-71 (from co-operative fall rye tests)

	Puma (RT 112)	Cougar	Frontier	No. of tests
Winter survival %	83.3	72.3	82.7	19
Yield (Q/ha)	35.6	33.6	30.9	24
1000 kernel wt (g)	28.2	27.6	26.2	33
Height (cm)	103	92	106	30
Maturity (days relative to Frontier)	+1	+2	—	28
Lodging (1-9)	2	1.6	2.2	24

Origin and Development

Puma stems back directly to the cultivar Dominant. Severe winter killing in the co-operative rye test during the winter of 1962-63 eliminated all but a few plants of the cultivar Dominant. These were transplanted to an area well isolated from other rye varieties. Seed was increased and entered into preliminary performance trials. Heavy winter killing again took place in 1964-65. The surviving plants were bagged before flowering took place, and the selfed seed was planted for increase in 1966. The reselection was considerably harder than the first selection, which in turn was harder than the original cultivar Dominant.

Plant Characters

SPIKE. Bearded, mid-long, dense, erect but slightly turned at maturity; chaff white, mid-long; kernels usually plump and green to green-blue in color.

STRAW. Moderately long, moderately strong; slightly shorter and stronger than Frontier but longer and weaker than Cougar.

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