

AURORA ALSIKE CLOVER¹

Aurora was produced to ensure adequate supplies of pedigreed seed of a variety of alsike clover for specific domestic and foreign markets. Aurora was given Canadian license No. 813, September, 1961.

ORIGIN AND BREEDING METHOD

Eight indigenous seed lots were secured in 1960 from areas in western Canada where alsike clover seed had been grown commercially for periods exceeding twenty years. These lots, designated as Regional Strains, were as follows:

<i>Regional Strain No.</i>	<i>Origin</i>
1	Winnipeg, Manitoba
2	Nipawin, Saskatchewan
5	Westlock, Alberta
6	Sangudo, Alberta
8	Falher, Alberta
9	Hinton Trail, Alberta
10	Debolt, Alberta
11	Prince George, B.C.

All strains were evaluated by the Beaverlodge Research Station in uniform comparative trials during 1961-1965 at Prince George, B.C.; Beaverlodge and Lacombe, Alberta; Melfort, Saskatchewan; Ottawa, Ontario and Normandin, Quebec. All strains, with the exception of strain 11 (Prince George), were similar; thus, they were mixed in equal quantities and propagated in isolation at Beaverlodge to produce Breeder seed of the variety Aurora.

Certified seed of Aurora has been secured since 1961 from selected commercial fields maintained at pedigreed standards in northern Alberta. Breeder seed was used to establish Foundation fields in 1965 under the Canadian Forage Seeds Project. Breeder seed is maintained at the Canada Agriculture Research Station, Beaverlodge, Alberta.

DESCRIPTION AND PERFORMANCE

Aurora is typical of the diploid form of the species *Trifolium hybridum* L. in all plant characters. It is superior to Alon and the Swedish variety Tetra in hardiness and seed yields. In forage production it was superior to Alon and equal to Tetra. It was superior to strain 11 at all test locations except Prince George and Normandin, where strain 11 excelled in seedling vigor, establishment, hardiness and yields of seed and herbage.

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