

'Cascade' BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL

Scientific Name: *Lotus corniculatus*

Common Name: Birdsfoot trefoil

Cultivar Name: 'Cascade'

Selected By: Pullman PMC, USDA-NRCS

Release Cooperators: USDA-SCS, Washington State University Agricultural Experiment Station, Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station

Release Date: 1949

ORIGIN: 'Cascade' was introduced into the U.S from France; it was cooperatively selected and released by the SCS Plant Materials Center, Pullman, Washington and the Washington Agriculture Experiment Station.

DESCRIPTION: 'Cascade' is a bloat-free, long-lived, frost tolerant, herbaceous legume with a well-developed, branching taproot and many upright stems developing from the crown. Stems are slender, solid, branched and leafy. The yellow pea-type flowers appear early in the season and blooming continues for several weeks. Seed pods form at the end of the flower stems in the shape of a birdsfoot. Pods shatter readily upon seed maturity. The young seedlings are poor competitors with other plants.

DISEASE AND INSECT PROBLEMS: No significant problems have been noted.

FORAGE PRODUCTION: 'Cascade' yielded 4.84 tons per acre in 1983 and 1.07 tons in 1982 with no phosphorus added. Though in 1983, 5.38 tons and in 1982, 3.14 tons was yielded with the addition of 72 pounds of phosphorus.

SEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS: A smooth well-firmed seedbed that will allow a uniform seeding at a shallow depth (not greater than ½ inch). Seed only during late April to early May. Also, use an equal amount of Cascade and grass, alternate rows for best results.

CONSERVATION USES: Used as high value forage on wet or poorly drained soils, Cascade is relished as pasture, hay, or silage by all classes of livestock

AVAILABILITY: Breeder and foundation classes of seed are no longer available. For additional information contact: Wayne Crowder, Soil Conservationist, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pullman Plant Materials Center (509) 335-7376 or email crowder@wsu.edu.