AGS 104
A new rye cultivar for winter forage and silage production

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This is a new rye cultivar developed by the University of Florida and the University of Georgia with the University of Florida being the lead institution.

Seasonal rye forage production varies by cultivar and it is important to select cultivars that are best suited for the forage needs of a livestock operation. Some cultivars produce early-season forage, while others, like the Noble Foundation ryes, are typically late-season forage producers. Several ryes are broad-based populations and produce tonnage fairly evenly over the course of the growing season.

Forage production is much more important in December, January, and February to southeastern livestock producers, than rye that is productive in March and April. Typically by mid-April summer perennial grasses come out of dormancy and begin to grow. Earlier growth of rye extends the grazing period where early forage production is desirable. It also fits in dairy silage operations where cool-season forages are followed by early planted corn.

The AGS 104 (tested experimentally as: FLPL97P20) originated from an equal mixture of 5 strains that were developed in 1996 at Griffin, GA: Strain 1 = Bates, WALC7, & Florida 401; Strain 2 = Maton, WALC7, & Florida 401; Strain 3 = Oklon, WALC7, & Florida 401; Strain 4 = NF 73, WALC7, & Florida 401; Strain 5 = BR1, WALC7, & Florida 401. These were grown in bulk at Plains, GA in 1997. This mixture was selected over a period of years (4 cycles of selection) at Quincy, FL 1998-2001. Bates, Maton, Oklon, and NF 73 all came from the Noble Foundation. The BR1 is a rye from Brazil. The WALC7 is a selection developed from Wrens Abruzzi that has been released as Wrens 96. The same selection criteria of good forage production, disease resistance and good seed yield was applied in making the plant selections to advance each cycle.

This rye line has been entered into a number of forage trials and performs very well particularly for early season forage productions and it will work very well in blends with ryegrass for long season forage production. In appearance this line most closely resembles Wrens 96. It is slightly earlier than Wrens 96 in maturity, and slightly shorter in height. It has very good leaf rust resistance. AGS 104 was released exclusively to AGSouth Genetics for marketing.

AGS 104 rye is considered to be an excellent choice as a winter forage used for grazing and ensiling for the southeastern U.S.