Screening of promising selection samples of alfalfa variable in productivity and longevity

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Abstract — The article presents the results of studying the numbers of alfalfa variable in breeding nursery (2011-2019 and 2015-2019) on the complex of economically valuable traits. High winter resistance of all varieties was revealed. On average, for three years in the breeding nursery the establishment of 2015-2019 years significantly exceeded the standard number on the seed yield: Victoria — by 70%, CHP-1 — 84%, CHP-2 — 24%, 192-92 (f) — 41%, 213 -11 - 74%. For three years of testing all these promising numbers significantly exceeded the Sarga variety (standard) in seeds yield. On average for three years the yield of green mass was 5.0-20.1 kg/10 m². According to this indicator the following samples significantly exceed the standard: Victoria - by 20.4%, 213-11 -5.1%, 199-06 — 15.0%. Dry matter collection was 1.08-4.27 kg/10 m² (standard 3.78 kg/10 m²), excess of 4.5-13.0%. During the longevity test in the breeding nursery of alfalfa (sowed in 2011) the following data was obtained: the seeds vield of breeding numbers in 2019 was 50.0 -333.3 g from 10 m². The highest yield was noted in numbers: 20-89N (st), 203-06, 197-06/1, 27-86 (f), 199-06/1, 101-2 (st), 20-89N (st).

Key words — alfalfa, variety, breeding, winter resistance, dry substance, seed yield.

I. INTRODUCTION

CURRENTLY, alfalfa occupies the largest area of perennial legumes in the world — about 30 million hectares [1]. So is in the Sverdlovsk region, where the acreage of perennial grass in 2019 amounted to 302,012 hectares, including the increased area of alfalfa to 25,187 hectares - compared to 2006, when the area occupied by alfalfa was 6,660 hectares - an increase of almost four times. It is associated with the high milk productivity of the region, alfalfa is the undisputed leader in the content of exchange energy, amino acid and fractional composition of feed.

In countries with developed animal husbandry, perennial grass occupies up to 70-75% of the total area of fodder crops, which is explained by the fact that the foods made from perennial grass are the most nutritious, full, cheap and well digested by animals [2].

Of the perennial species of alfalfa in the non-chernozem zone, the greatest interest is alfalfa variable or bastard lucerne (Medicago sativa x M. varia), which occurred as a result of natural or artificial crossing of creeping alfalfa (M. sativa L.), yellow (M. falcata L.) and northern (M. borealis G.). Depending on ecological-geographical origin, nature of hybridity and biological features alfalfa variable is divided into three groups of varietal types: motley hybrid, yellow hybrid and blue hybrid [3].

The type is characterized by high ecological ductility; has higher winter resistance compared to creeping alfalfa, therefore it has more perspective for territories with extreme environmental conditions.

It is noted that the mass yield, power and nature of vegetative growth, as well as height of plants in the second year of life there is a greater genetic dispersion than in the year of sowing [4]. Therefore, the selection of plants in the second year of life should be more effective [5].

It was established that the vegetative productivity of alfalfa is more determined by the number of stems in the plant. rather than by the mass of one stem, and the seed is the result of the influence of the number of tied beans on the plant and seed productivity of one stem [5], [6].

Creation of pure-breeding set for such strict outbreeds as alfalfa and other types of fodder cultures is practically impossible. Yet it is possible to create phenotype balanced micropopulations as components for synthetic varieties [7] – [9]. With this, the population will be more resistant with long-term evaluation and sampling.

The purpose of the work is to identify promising material at all stages of the breeding process, as well as to carry out a long-term evaluation of new varieties of alfalfa variable in the complex of economic and value-added features.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research was carried out in 2011-2019 in the Department of Breeding and Seed Breeding of Perennial Herbs of the Ural Research Institute of Agriculture — a branch of the Federal state budgetary institution of the Ural Federal Agrarian Scientific and Research Center, the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences within the framework of the State assignment in the direction of "Fundamental bases of breeding process management of new plants genotypes creation with high economic and valuable signs of productivity, resistance to bio- and abiostressors" on the topic "Development, improvement of new methods of breeding work, creation of initial material and new varieties of spring and winter grain, legumes, fodder crops and potatoes".

In breeding nursery of alfalfa (2011 sowing), there was an offspring estimation of selected biotypes in wide-row sowing, consisting of 43 numbers, taking place; those were the selection of the Ural Research Institute of Agriculture — branch of the Federal state budgetary institution of the Ural Federal Agrarian Scientific and Research Center, the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, standard — Uralochka variety. It consisted of 10 plants of each population selected in the field according to seed productivity, which were dug out and transplanted into vessels on the plants accelerated vegetation skids (PAVS) in a winter greenhouse in autumn of 2007. In its study, the ability to tie seeds in the field conditions and with complete isolation (greenhouse) were assessed. The best self-fertile genotypes were multiplied and planted by stalks in field conditions.

In the breeding nursery (2015 sowing), productivity assessment is also carried out with wide-row sowing, the nursery includes 56 numbers, standard - Sarga. The composition of the nursery includes three complex hybrid populations; those are selected and formed according to morphological characteristics, three blocks on the color of the corolla: blue, yellow- and motley hybrid populations.

There are genetic studies [7] - [9], which revealed, for example, that the purple color of a flower is caused by anthocyanin dissolved in cell juice, the production of which is controlled by two complementary genes through the enzymatic system of the plant. In the absence of one of the genes, the flowers turn out to be white. Yellow color is caused by two different pigments - anthocyanin and carotene in plastides, which act under the control of several genes.

Parent forms were local population varieties, as well as the best populations from the collection nursery.

Sowing is summer wide-row achlamydeous, seeding rate - 9 million germinating seeds per 1 ha. The accounting area of the plot is 2.4 and 3.6 m², the repeatability is four and six times when estimating the numbers for seed productivity and twice - when estimating the feed productivity, leafage, nutritional value. Field experiments, records, observations and assessments were carried out in accordance with generally accepted guidelines [10]. Statistical processing of experimental data - by the method of dispersion analysis of Dospekhov B.A. [11].

The main climatic indicators of the region: the sum of effective temperatures above 5° C — 1282° C, while during the years of research (2011-2019) the fluctuations amounted to 1324-1906° C, more than 10° C — 557°C, during the study 598.5-960 °C, 15 °C — 115 °C, changes 115-418 °C. Long-term total precipitation for periods with given temperatures is 330, 263 and 161 mm. During the study for similar periods the changes were as follows: 246-464 mm, 132-425 mm, 94-235 mm. The sum of positive temperatures for the growing period is 2090 °C, deviations from the multi-year indicator were 2026-2804 °C [12] - [14].

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It is believed that the period of economic use of alfalfa grass is limited to 4-5 years [15]. Other studies performed in All-Russia Scientific Research Institute of fodder, RSAU-MAA named after K.A. Timiryazev, show that productive longevity of alfalfa can reach 13 years or more [16], [17].

The interest in alfalfa longevity from the seed productivity point of view is that several researchers in Moscow and Yaroslavl regions estimate productive longevity of plants formation from number of mowing, botanical composition, fertilizers, binary sowing with cereals or legumes (for example, birds-foot trefoil). Besides, the study carried out in the USA showed that the yield of alfalfa starts to decrease if the density per 1 m² is less than 32-54 plants, and the normal grass stand density to obtain good yield is 600 shoots per 1m² [18], [19].

The aim of our research is to assess the productive alfalfa longevity in its pure form, with wide-row sowing, seedproduction sowing.

Longevity researches are widely used in the selection programs of DLF TRIFOLIUM (Dutch seed company), for example, they have created Saskia – synthetic variety consisting of 59 clones, sampled from the field with 8-year old grass stand in the region with long cold winters.

Only thanks to evaluation of perspective samples (in terms of longevity) in breeding nurseries it is possible ti distinguish winter-resistant and grass stand resistant biotypes.

In addition, low fertility is a particular problem of alfalfa. Improvement of this indicator is complicated by a large number of factors, both external and internal, biological, genetically controlled. Such as the features of the plant itself, the presence of pollinators insects, environmental conditions and its interaction [20] - [22].

Biotypes forming a high percentage of seed formation in conditions of excessive humidification and heat deficiency have been obtained, in which autotripping occurs at the temperature of the air not reaching the required level for alfalfa of $26-30^{\circ}$ C.

In 2012, for the second year of life, the yield of seeds was 69.4-233.3 g/10 m². Reliable exceeding over the Uralochka standard was provided by numbers: 213-11 — by 17.4% (+ 30.5 g/10 m^2), 203-06/1 — 23.8% (+ 41.6 g/10 m^2), 213-11/1 — 33.3% (+ 58.3 g/10 m^2) (Table 1).

In the third year of life (2013), the seed yield of experimental genotypes ranged from 47.7 g/10 m² to 248.6 g/10 m². Reliable excess over Uralochka standard was provided by numbers: 199-06/2 - 241.6 g/10 m² (+ 59.7 g/10 m²), 204-06/1 - 247.2 g/10 m² (+ 65.3 g/10 m²), 203-06/2-248.6 g/10m²(+ 66.7 m²).

In 2014, on September 7th (7 days earlier than usual), there was a decrease in the average daily temperature of +10 °C towards declination. In addition, the growing season of 2014 was characterized by late spring, cool with intense rainfall in summer, a small number of pollinator insects. Due to the weather conditions occurred in 2014, we were unable to harvest the seeds.

Genotype	Year of la	ife	_	% to st			
	2nd	3rd	5th	6th	9th	— x	
Uralochka (b) - (st.)	175.0	181.9	52.8	125.0	116.6	130.3	100
20-89N (st)	69.4	77.7	63.8	175.0	156.3	108.4	83
199-06/2	147.2	241.6	79.2	248.6	333.3	210.0	161
101-2 (st)	80.5	152.7	47.2	194.4	177.1	130.4	100
203-06/2	88.8	122.2	30.5	138.8	110.4	98.1	75
203-06	100.0	138.8	58.3	147.2	175.0	123.9	95
204-06/1	131.1	247.2	75.0	209.7	133.3	159.3	122
Uralochka (st)	166.6	97.2	31.9	84.7	122.9	100.7	77
Uralochka (f)	187.5	198.6	69.4	177.7	100.0	146.6	112
197-06/2	141.6	186.1	86.1	150.0	100.0	132.8	102
197-06	111.1	194.4	47.2	158.3	79.2	118.0	90
197-06/1	158.3	47.7	33.3	104.1	175.0	103.7	79
225-11	115.2	65.2	38.8	125.0	83.3	85.5	66
27-86 (st)	130.5	50.0	37.5	93.0	104.2	83.0	64
27-86 (b)	122.2	156.1	79.1	166.6	108.3	126.5	97
27-86 (f)	75.0	127.7	55.5	105.5	175.0	107.7	83
213-11/2	184.7	98.6	55.5	150.0	50.0	107.8	83
213-11	205.5	141.6	52.7	134.7	87.5	124.4	95
213-11/1	233.3	188.8	80.5	186.1	108.3	159.4	122
Population VS-08 (st)	151.3	187.5	61.1	134.7	95.8	126.1	97
Population VS-08 (b)	76.1	163.8	65.2	161.1	97.9	112.8	87
Population VS-08 (f)	204.1	245.8	41.6	160.2	104.2	151.2	116
199-06/1	216.6	248.6	40.9	195.1	77.7	155.8	119
NSR05	13.08	14.23	4.74	14.10	11.48		

Table 1. Yield of alfalfa seeds variable in breeding nursery, g from 10 m², (sowing in 2011, accounting 2012-2019^{*})

Note: - * alfalfa was not harvested in 2014 due to the snow cover setting up in October.

In 2015, for the fifth year of use, the yield of seeds in the breeding nursery was $30.5-80.5 \text{ g/10 m}^2$.

For the sixth year of life (2016), the yield of seeds was $84.7-248.6 \text{ g}/10 \text{ m}^2$. Reliable excess over Uralochka standard was provided by numbers: 20-89N (st) (by 40%), 204-06/1 (67.7%), 199-06/2 (by 98.8%).

In the breeding nursery of alfalfa sown in 2011 (the ninth year of life) it was decided to conduct plots thrashing, plant formation condition - very good, the exception was two tiers (I and II) -due to high acidity of this site single plants remained, and also tires III and IV were under oppression (but partially), therefore harvest on this site was carried out selectively.

The results were obtained as follows: seeds yield of breeding numbers in 2019 amounted to 50.0 - 333.3 g from 10 m². The highest yield was noted in numbers: 20-89N (st), 203-06, 197-06/1, 27-86 (f), 199-06/1, 101-2 (st), 20-89N (st).

On average for five years (on the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th and 9th years of life) in breeding nursery seed yield amounted to 83.0-210.0 g from 10 m². The following numbers have reliably exceeded the standard (Uralochka): Population VS-08 (f) — 151.2 g/10 m² (by 16%), 199-06/1 — 155.8 g/10 m² (by 19.6%), 213-11/1 — 159.4 g/10 m² (by 22.3%), 199-06/1 — 210.0 g/10 m² (by 61.2%).

The obtained experimental data testify to the prospects of research and confirm the high seed productivity of the lines created.

It is established that higher yields of seeds are given by those forms that are less demanding to warmth.

The yield of green mass in the breeding nursery (sowing 2015) in 2017 for the third year of use in the amount of two crops amounted to $6.7 - 28.5 \text{ kg/10 m}^2$. At the same time, it should be noted that for all the years of testing the higher yield of green mass is noted in the first harvest. Table 2 presents promising samples of breeding nursery, which exceeded the standard (Sarga) in three years. In the first mowing in 2017 the highest result in green mass yield was noted in samples: 199-06/1 — 20.8 kg/10 m², 213-11 — 20.0 kg/10 m². (table 2). In the second mowing for the third year of life the significant excess to the standard was noted in the following numbers - Victoria - 9.3 kg/10 m², 213-11 - 8.2 kg/10 m².

For the fourth year of life, the yield of green mass was 5.0 -20.0 kg/10 m^2 . For the season of 2018, the highest result in green mass yield was noted in the samples: Victoria -16.6 kg/10 m^2 , 199-06 -20.0 kg/10 m^2 (+3.34 kg/10 m)²).

In 2019, the green mass yield in the breeding nursery (sowing 2015) for the fifth year of life in the first crop of numbers have ranged from 0.8 to 7.5 kg from 10 m². According to this indicator there following numbers stood out: Uralochka (f) — 6.6 kg/10 m², Victoria — 7.5 kg/10 m², 199-06 — 5.8 kg/10 m².

In the second mowing, the yield of green mass was from 2.5 to 7.5 kg from 10 m². The yield of green mass in the second mowing should be noted for numbers: Victoria — 7.5 kg/10 m², 199-06 — 6.6 kg/10 m². In sum for two crops the yield of green mass was 3.3 - 15.0 kg/10 m².

For the season 2019, in the green mass yield the highest result was noted in the samples: Victoria — 15.0 kg/10 m^2 , 199-06 — 12.4 kg/10 m^2 , Uralochka (f) — 12.4 kg/10 m^2 .

indicator samples significantly exceeding the standard were: Victoria — by 20.4%, 213-11 - 5.1%, 199-06 — 15.0%.

The yield	of green	mass on	average for three years
(2017-2019) was	5.0-20.1	kg/10 n	n ² . According to this

Table 2. Green mass	yield of alfalfa variable in breed	ling nursery, kg from 10	m^2 (sowing 2015.	accounting 2017-2019)

Genotype	First m	owing			Second mowing					
	year of	year of life					year of life			% to st
				Х					Х	
	3rd	4th	5th			3rd	4th	5th		
Sarga — st.	16.7	10.8	4.1	10.5	100	7.5	5.8	5.0	6.1	100
Victoria	19.2	10.8	7.5	12.5	119	9.3	5.8	7.5	7.5	123
213-11	20.0	10.0	4.1	11.4	109	8.2	6.3	4.1	6.2	102
199-06/1	20.8	11.7	3.3	11.9	113	6.7	4.2	4.1	5.0	82
199-06	17.5	12.5	5.8	11.9	113	7.7	7.5	6.6	7.3	120
Uralochka (f)	16.7	9.2	6.6	10.8	103	7.3	5.8	5.8	6.3	103
NSR05	1.8	0.9	0.4			0.7	0.5	0.5		

The dry matter collection for the third year of life amounted to 1.04-4.85 kg/10 m² in the first mowing (standard - 3.59 kg/10 m²). The highest yield was shown by number 199-06/1 (table 3). In the second mowing the yield was 0.40-1.91 kg/10 m², Victoria should be noted — 9.3 kg/10 m²(+ 1.8 kg/10 m²), 213-11 — 8.2 (+ 0.7 kg/10 m²).

In the second year of use, the dry matter collection was $9.16-20.0 \text{ kg/10 m}^2$ (standard — 16.66 kg/10 m^2).

According to this indicator the standard number's exceeding in the first mowing was: $199-06 - 3.01 \text{ kg/10 m}^2$ (+14.8%), in the second mowing - 213-11 - 1.68 kg/10 m² (+38.8% to the standard)

In 2019, the dry matter harvest was $0.69-3.28 \text{ kg/10 m}^2$ (standard 2.28 kg/10 m²). The highest yield of dry matter was noted in the first mowing of Uralochka (f) — 2.02 kg/10 m² (+64.2% to the standard).

Genotype		F	irst mow	ing		Second mowing				
	У	year of life			% to st	year of life			_	% to st
				х					Х	
	3rd	4th	5th	-		3rd	4th	5th		
Sarga — st.	3.59	2.62	1.23	2.48	100	1.64	1.21	1.05	1.30	100
Victoria	3.11	2.45	1.93	2.50	101	1.91	1.24	1.35	1.50	115
213-11	4.58	2.29	1.17	2.68	108	1.72	1.68	0.84	1.41	108
199-06/1	4.85	2.35	0.85	2.68	108	1.46	1.02	0.69	1.06	82
199-06	3.52	3.01	1.58	2.70	109	1.68	1.65	1.38	1.57	121
Uralochka (f)	3.57	2.16	2.02	2.58	104	1.59	1.28	1.24	1.37	105
NSR ₀₅	0.35	0.22	0.13			0.15	0.12	0.10		

Table 3. Yield of air-dry weight of alfalfa variable in breeding nursery, kg from 10 m², (sowing 2015, accounting 2017-2019)

Based on the results of three years of study, the average dry matter collected was $1.08-4.27 \text{ kg/10 m}^2$ (standard 3.78 kg/10 m^2), exceeding by 4.5-13.0%. Significant additions to the standard are noted for numbers: 213-11, 199-06, - collecting dry matter at which reached 4.09-4.27 t/ha.

The seeds yield in the breeding nursery of alfalfa (sowing 2015) for these numbers in 2016 was 11.3-113.9 g from 10 m². The highest yield was noted in the numbers: Uralochka (b) --113.9 g/10 m², 101-2 (f) --86.1 g/10 m², 213-11 --78.1 g/10 m² (table 4).

In 2017, during the alfalfa flowering period, the beginning of flowering phase was recorded on July 04—07, later than the average annual data. Adverse weather conditions caused the formation of low seeds yield in most numbers of alfalfa.

The seeds yield in the breeding nursery of alfalfa (sowing 2015) in 2017 for the third year of life of the numbers amounted to 27.5-120.8 g from 10 m². The highest yield was noted for numbers: CHP -1 (g) — 150.0 g/10 m², 192-92 (f) — 133.3 g/10 m², 213-11 — 78.1 g/10 m², 199-06/1 — 120.8 g/10 m², 213-11/1 — 118.8 g/10 m².

The seeds yield in the breeding nursery of alfalfa (sowing 2015) in 2018 for the fourth year of life of the numbers amounted to 50.0-195.8 g with 10 m². Reliable excess of the seeds yield was noted in numbers: CHP -1 (g) — 104%, CHP -3 (b) — 50%, Victoria — 60%, 192-92 (f) — 58%.

The seeds yield in the breeding nursery of alfalfa (sowing 2015) in 2019 for the fifth year of life of the numbers

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amounted to 62.5-220.8 g from 10 m². Reliable excess of the seeds yield was noted for all numbers in the breeding nursery.

Table 4. Seeds yield of alfalfa variable in breeding nursery, g from 10 m², (sowing 2015, accounting 2016-2019)

Grade, sample	Year of li	fe			- x	% to st			
	2nd	3rd	4th	5th					
Sarga — st.	77.8	39.6	95.8	62.5	68.9	100			
Victoria	68.3	104.2	153.3	141.6	116.9	170			
CHP-1 (g)	41.7	150.0	195.8	120.8	127.1	184			
192-92 (f)	11.3	133.3	151.2	91.6	96.9	141			
30-1 (st)	36.1	62.5	112.5	108.3	79.9	116			
20-89 N (b)	30.0	63.8	106.2	141.6	85.4	124			
199-06/2	15.7	84.2	131.7	133.3	91.2	132			
213-11	78.1	55.0	125.0	220.8	119.7	174			
213-11/1	37.5	116.7	113.3	102.1	92.4	134			
199-06/1	20.6	120.8	128.3	100.0	92.4	134			
СНР-2 (р)	50.0	94.6	87.5	110.4	85.6	124			
193-95 (f)	30.3	75.0	104.2	131.3	85.2	124			
20-89 N (f)	16.8	83.3	93.7	133.3	81.8	119			
101-2 (f)	86.1	68.8	85.4	127.1	91.9	133			
203-06/2	63.9	50.0	65.0	112.5	72.9	106			
204-06/2	88.9	66.6	77.1	114.6	86.8	126			
Uralochka (st)	34.2	69.6	83.3	100.0	71.8	104			
Uralochka (b)	113.9	47.9	91.7	125.0	94.6	137			
Uralochka (f)	61.1	27.5	112.5	100.0	75.3	109			
197-06	14.0	79.2	104.2	110.4	77.0	112			
213-11/2	25.6	118.8	62.5	175.0	95.5	138			
population (st)	52.2	83.3	75.0	125.0	83.9	122			
population (f)	52.8	70.0	87.5	139.6	87.5	127			
CHP-3 (b)	36.7	75.0	143.7	145.8	100.3	146			
20-89N (st)	34.7	74.2	50.0	137.5	74.1	108			
101-2 (st)	25.6	46.7	70.8	137.5	70.2	102			
203-06	55.6	45.8	80.8	129.2	77.9	113			
NSR05	4.37	7.09	9.44	11.49					

In breeding nursery (sowing 2015) on average for four years (2016-2019) the yield amounted to 59.4 - 127.1 g/10 m². Reliable excess above the Sarga standard was obtained for the following samples: Victoria - 70%, CHP-1 (g) - 85%, 192-92 (f) - 41%, 199-06/1 - 34%.

The obtained promising numbers will be included in the nursery of the competitive test.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

On average for three years in the breeding nursery the seeds yield significantly exceeded the standard of varieties and numbers: Victoria — by 70%, CHP-1 —by 84%, CHP-2 — 24%, 192-92 (f) —by 41%, 213-11 — 74%. The average yield of green mass for three years was 5.0-20.1 kg/10 m². According to this indicator the following samples significantly exceed the standard: Victoria — by 20.4%, 213-11 -5.1%, 199-06 — 15.0%. Dry matter collection was 1.08-4.27 kg/10 m² (standard 3.78 kg/10 m²), excess of 4.5-13.0%.

Experimental data on the longevity of alfalfa confirm the prospect of increasing seed productivity in the created self-fertile lines.

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