

Release of Arblick and Ecoturf Perennial Peanut Germplasm

Developers: G.M. Prine, A.R. Blount, E.C. French, M.W. Williams, and K.H. Quesenberry

“**Arblick**” (PI 262839) is an ornamental and forage perennial peanut that was among the early lines tested by the USDA-SCS at the Arcadia and Brooksville Plant Materials Centers, but was not officially released by the USDA-SCS and University of Florida. This accession was collected in the town of Bela Vista, located on the border of Brazil and Paraguay. It has large stems and dark green leaves, and its profuse flowers are a creamy yellow color. Arblick was considered to be slow at establishment, with lower forage potential (similar to that of Ecoturf, which yields equal to or less than Florigraze in multi-location forage trials). Arblick is grown on a limited basis as an ornamental turf and for forage. Foundation material will be maintained at the NFREC-Marianna.

“**Ecoturf**” was identified as an ornamental perennial peanut by Dr. Gordon Prine and Dr. Tito French in the early 1990s because it was a low growing “ground cover” type plant. This plant introduction was collected along the Brazil-Paraguay border, near where Arblick was found. It has been shown to form an established ground cover more rapidly than Arblick. Forage yields of Ecoturf are typically equal to or lower than that of Florigraze (in multi-location forage trials). This PI has yellow-orange colored flowers, compared to the paler yellow color of Arblick flowers. It is a lower growing type that flowers profusely during its growing season. While Ecoturf does have Peanut Stunt Virus, it rarely shows leaf mottling or disfigurement due to the virus. It was officially released by the University of Florida in 2008. Ecoturf has already gained some acceptance by the commercial landscape industry, mostly for its use as an ornamental turf and for forage. In 2002, the Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association (FNGA) listed rhizoma perennial peanut as one of the 2002 Florida Plants of the Year. Ornamental Outlook (March 2008) recommended perennial peanut as the “green choice” in Florida as a lawn substitute. Ecoturf will perform well either as an ornamental turf crop or for forage. Foundation material of Ecoturf will be maintained at the NFREC-Marianna.



Perennial Peanut as a Groundcover in Highway Median