

Better Established Pastures and Forage Crops

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The considerations necessary to establish high quality pasture and forage crops

Factors to consider:

- Rainfall (low, high).
- Soil pH and structure (sand, loam, clay).
- Goal of pasture: annual, biennial, regenerative, perennial.
- Time of sowing.
- Grazing Structure (rotations, high/low intensity).

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Variety selection

- The environment really dictates what varieties we should use in our production systems.
- Annual rainfall, soil types, slope and aspect all contribute to what we can use in a certain pasture or cropping system.
- Hotter dryer climates require species which are tough, hard seeded, survive hot summers and regenerate well over a long period of time, eg; Cavalier - Spineless Burr Medic and Dalsa Sub Clover
- High performance ryegrasses such as Ansa AR1 perform better in wetter environmental regions such as the South East and Hills areas.

Rainfall and Soil Type

Low Rainfall (250mm-600mm)

- pH 4 – pH 6.5 (Acidic) Soils:
 - Medic (Cavalier)
 - Sub Clover (Dalsa, Clare 2)
 - Persian Clover (SARDI, Turbo)
 - Balansa Clover (Cobra)
 - Lucerne (GTL60)
- pH 6.5 – pH 9 (Alkaline)
 - Barley (Moby)
 - Persian Clover (SARDI, Turbo)
 - Balansa Clover (Cobra)
 - Medic (Caliph, Cavalier, Jaguar)
 - Lucerne (L71, ML91)

High Rainfall (600mm+)

- pH 4 – pH 6.5 (Acidic) Soils:
 - Perennial Ryegrass (Jeta, Ansa)
 - White Clover (Riesling, Jumbo)
 - Red Clover (Renegade, Rajah)
 - Lucerne (Q31, L56)
- pH 6.5 – pH 9 (Alkaline)
 - Everything except true subterraneans

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Soil type

- Non fertile soils may need amendments such as micro or macro nutrients.
- Heavy or hard setting clays may not be suitable for root penetration into sub soil to access soil moisture and nutrients. Some species prefer well drained lighter soils.
- Overly acidic or alkaline soils can require additions of lime or gypsum to correct soil pH to prevent toxicity.
- Waterlogging soils may not be suitable for particular varieties resulting in poor vigour and potentially death.

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Pasture goals

- Not all species are perennial e.g. clovers, medics and forage crops.
- Some will regenerate via hardseededness if allowed to develop seed bank. (Attained through spelling paddock at flowering).
- Perennial options require high rainfall to persist e.g. Jeta, Optima and Impact.
- Different species have different seasonal activity e.g. lucerne's are summer active with variable winter activity where as medics are annuals that flower and die leading onto summer.

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Time of Sowing

- Time of sowing is critical in the success of the germination of your seed.
- Sowing too early can literally cook your seed.
- Too late and the soil temperature can be too low so seed does not germinate correctly.
- Too wet can cause some seeds to burst.
- Too dry can expose your seed to insect/weed pressure.

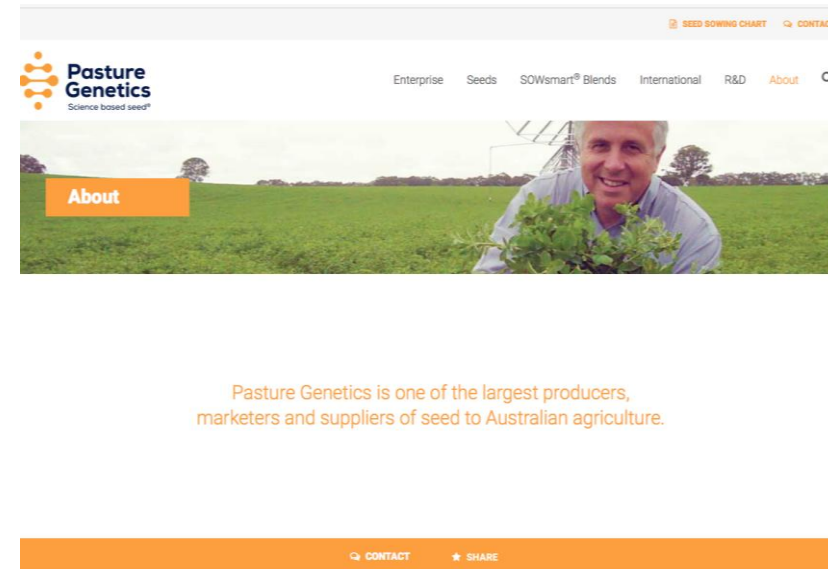
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Grazing management

- Grazing management is critical when it comes to the establishment of a great pasture or forage stand.
- Grazing too early may damage the initial plant population by reducing plants density as a result of plants being pulled from the ground.
- Grazing too late may have the effect of limiting production as if a plant is allowed to go to head too early, the plant may not respond well to future grazing pressures.

Website – pasturegenetics.com

- Pasture Genetics website is comprehensive
 - Technical information sheets (downloadable PDF's)
 - Recent publications including Profitable Pastures, Forage Advisors, Lucerne Advisor
 - Sowing Guides
 - Sowsmart Blends
 - Research and Development
 - International
 - Turf information
 - Latest cropping information
 - Farmer feedback testimonials
 - Media – current articles and videos
 - Contact details





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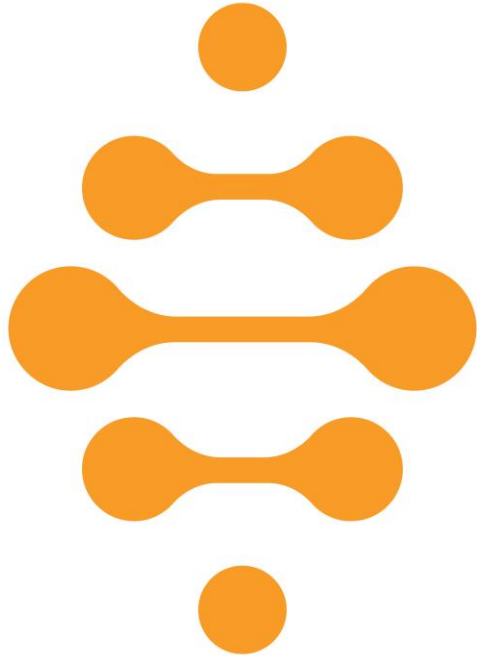
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Thank you for your time

