



better seeds, better choices

TROPICAL SUPPLY UPDATE

INTRODUCTION

By Roger Dennis

The impact of the dry summer in our largest production area is being felt now with shortages in stock for a number of both grass and legume varieties. Unseasonably good winter rain has fallen across much of Queensland with this rainfall continuing into the spring. If these weather conditions remain in place over the summer, this will be a positive step forward for good seed yields in 2017. A summary of the more popular tropical species follows;

Bermuda Grass (*Cynodon dactylon*): Supply is good at this stage, prices are expected to stay steady.

Pensacola Bahia (*Paspalum notatum*): Stock availability is still good.

Katambora Rhodes Grass (*Chloris gayana*): Availability is fair and are awaiting more stock to become available at years end from the irrigated crop.

Callide Rhodes Grass (*Chloris gayana*): Stocks are adequate at this stage, however expect supplies to tighten up over the spring sowing season.

Japanese/Shirohie Millet (*Echinochloa utilis*): Good supplies and good quality with stock being available now.

US, Gayndah and Biloela Buffel (*Cenchrus ciliaris*): We are in a sold out position in the three varieties of Buffel, with the next harvest scheduled for around May 2017.

Signal Grass (*Brachiaria decumbens*): Stock is limited with the dry conditions during the growth phase in the production area adversely affecting yields.

Gatton Panic (*Panicum maximum cv Gatton*): Unfortunately yields of Gatton Panic, our new Megamax 059 and 049 were poor this season therefore we are sold out of all these varieties. The next harvest for these species will be around March next year. Trial quantities may be available. We do still have excellent stocks of Mombasa Guinea (*Panicum maximum cv Mombasa*) available for shipment ex Thailand. This seed is of high quality and good price.

B1 Burgundy (*Macroptilium bracteatum*): Poor yields were attained of B1 Burgundy, Presto and Garnet therefore very limited supplies are available of these varieties.

Ebony Cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata*): Fair quantities were harvested though forward sales have moved this stock. Therefore we are sold out.

Siran Stylo (*Stylosanthes scabra*): Good stocks and quality anticipated once new crop is available, expected to be late October.

Amiga Stylo (*Stylosanthes hamata*): Limited inventory is available with stocks expected to become tighter over the spring sowing season.



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Highworth/Rongai Lablab (*Lablab purpureus*): Both the varieties are sold out due to forward sales that have been received. Around June 2017 will be the next harvest of Highworth with the Rongai being around August.

Aztec Atro (*Macroptilium atropurpureum*): Stocks are tight and are not expecting large quantities from the harvest over the next month or two.

Whittet Kikuyu (*Pennisetum clandestinum*): Good quality stock is available, prices remain steady.

Carpet Grass (*Axonopus affinis*): Good quantities of carpet grass were harvested and swiftly purchased due to the unavailability over the last few years. Very limited supplies exist.

Splenda Setaria (*Sphacelata setaria*): Poor yields were received therefore no stock is available at this time. The next harvest will be around April 2017.

Ex US

Pinto Peanut (*Arachis pinto cv Amarillo*): Good stocks and good germination are available.

Ex Mexico

Mulato II (*Brachiaria decumbens x Brachiaria ruziziensis x Brachiaria brizantha*): Good quality coated stock is available
Ex Mexico

Ex Thailand

Ubon Stylo (*Stylosanthes guianensis*): Sold out with the next harvests' stock expected to be available in March 2017.

Mombasa Guinea (*Panicum Maximum cv Mombasa*): Good supplies are available for the Mombasa Guinea. High genetic purity and high germination rates are the properties of our Mombasa Guinea.

Sunnhemp (*Crotalaria juncea*): We have limited supplies of Sunnhemp available.



Mulato II Hybrid Brachiaria in Southern Province, New Caledonia