

SARDI-GRAZER LUCERNE



325mm +



5.8-8.0



Deep Well Drained



AL or **AgriCote**



PBR

KEY FEATURES

- Market leading grazing tolerant lucerne variety
- Persists under periods of set stocking up to two months once established
- Winter activity rating 6 (6.5 effectively)
- Persistence 8-10 years+
- Requires minimal rotational grazing management
- Exceptional persistence across a range of environments from low to high rainfall, dryland and irrigation
- Broadly adapted to a variety of farming systems
- Well suited to mixed swards with perennial grasses such as winter active tall fescue, cocksfoot or phalaris.



DESCRIPTION

SARDI-Grazer was developed through a GRDC funded project aimed at increasing the persistence of lucerne in mixed grazing/cropping systems, where large paddocks limit the use of rotational grazing. It has proven to be the variety of choice across all enterprises where less than ideal grazing management occurs.

SARDI-Grazer is useful in permanent pastures systems in the medium to high rainfall areas, where long periods of continuous grazing (over four weeks) by sheep or cattle is common practice.

DISEASE/PEST RESISTANCE

SARDI-Grazer is highly resistant (HR) to Spotted Alfalfa Aphid (*Therioaphis trifolii*) and Blue-Green Algid (*Acyrtosiphon kondoi*). As with other lucerne varieties, SARDI-Grazer is susceptible to damage from Red Legged Earth Mite (*Halotydeus destructor*) and control measures need to take place prior to seeding or soon after germination. AgriCOTE seed will aid establishment in these circumstances.

Spotted Alfalfa Aphid	Blue Green Aphid	Phytophthora Root Rot	Anthracnose	Stem Nematode
HR	HR	R	R	R



PRODUCT FIT

Sardi-Grazer is a good fit for:

- Wool, prime lamb and beef production areas with medium to high rainfall, where mob sizes and numbers prevent the use of strict rotational grazing.
- Cropping rotations where large paddocks restrict the use of rotational grazing.
- A long term lucerne stand; where a permanent pasture with volunteer grasses or mixtures with phalaris, cocksfoot or tall fescue is required.
- Any system where a simple 2 paddock rotation system is required for managing livestock.

BREEDING HISTORY

One hundred and twenty lucerne varieties and breeding lines, many of which had previously undergone two cycles of selection under continuous sheep grazing, were evaluated in a continuous grazing trial at Roseworthy SA. After two years, surviving plants were dug up and replanted next to aphid and disease resistant selections for open pollination. The harvested seed resulted in the formation of 11 breeding lines that were sown along with commercial comparators in two parallel continuous grazing trials: one in Turrefield, SA on a clay loamy with gravel on the surface and another in Katanning WA on an acidic light sandy soil more conducive to physical disturbance from the trampling of sheep.

Following nearly two years of continuous grazing by sheep, the breeding lines were found to maintain substantially higher plant densities than commercial varieties. Individual plants were dug from the best lines at Katanning and Turrefield and further evaluated based on their agronomic performance and yield potential. The final parental plants used to develop SARDI-Grazer were selected based on resistance to aphids and diseases (BGA, SAA, PRR, and Anth), herbage yield, herbage quality (bushiness and fine stems) and winter activity rating.

VARIETY/AGRONOMY MANAGEMENT

SARDI-Grazer is a winter active cultivar that has been bred to withstand spells of continuous grazing of up to two months. To gain sound establishment the crop should only be lightly grazed in the first year, as per all lucerne varieties. Once established, it can be grazed in a 2 paddock rotation with 6-8 weeks grazing followed by 6-8 weeks recovery. The recovery period is critical for recharging energy reserves of the plant which will maintain excellent levels of production and persistence.

SARDI-Grazer can also be recommended for any grazing enterprise, as the results from commercial farms in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia show exceptional persistence under management practises currently used on commercial farms.

Lucerne may be suitable for planting in soils with lower pH levels, provided exchangeable Aluminium levels are very low. A reliable soil test and advice from an agronomist is strongly recommended.



SARDI-Grazer vs a winter active control after 18 months of continuous grazing at Turrefield SA.

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