

TROPICAL SUPPLY UPDATE

INTRODUCTION

By Roger Dennis

Rainfall over spring/summer season has been patchy through Queensland though recently Far North Queensland (where a significant part of our tropical seed production is placed) have received good falls due to a rain depression that formed over the region. Although good stocks exist for some of our grasses, the next few months weather systems will be critical in determining the availability and quality of stock for the rest of the year. A summary of the more popular tropical species follows;

Bermuda Grass (*Cynodon dactylon*): Supply remains steady as do prices.

Pensacola Bahia (*Paspalum notatum*): No stock is available currently though it is anticipated stock will become available mid year.

Katambora Rhodes Grass (*Chloris gayana*): Good stocks are available with new crop harvest currently underway.

Callide Rhodes Grass (*Chloris gayana*): Stocks are good at this stage of the season.

Japanese/Shirohie Millet (*Echinochloa utilis*): Good supplies and quality of both these varieties is still available.

US, Gayndah and Biloela Buffel (*Cenchrus ciliaris*): Gayndah stocks are limited, with USA & Biloela new crop dependant on further rain and safe harvest.

Signal Grass (*Brachiaria decumbens*): We are in a sold out position and are awaiting stock from the new crop in June.

Gatton Panic (*Panicum maximum cv Gatton*): Limited supplies of Gatton Panic will be coming available over the next month.

Megamax 059 (*Panicum maximum*): Good supplies of Megamax 059 are expected to arrive over the next 4 weeks.

B1 Burgundy (*Macroptilium bracteatum*): We are sold out of B1 Burgundy, Garnet and Presto with the new seed crop expected to be available in June.

Ebony Cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata*): Sold out for this summer forage with the next stock expected to become available around July.

Siran Stylo (*Stylosanthes scabra*): Good stocks and quality of stock is available for this variety.

Amiga Stylo (*Stylosanthes hamata*): Sold out of the species with the next crop available around June.

Highworth/Rongai Lablab (*Lablab purpureus*): Completely sold out of Highworth with new crop expected to be available July 2017. Rongai available for prompt shipment.

Aztec Atro (*Macroptilium atropurpureum*): Sold out with the next harvest expected towards the end of 2017.

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

Carpet Grass (*Axonopus affinis*): No stock available and not a very good outlook at this stage for the 2017 crop. Please check for availability.

Splenda Setaria (*Sphacelata setaria*): No stock is available at this time. New crop expected to be available 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

Mulato II (*Brachiaria decumbens x Brachiaria ruziziensis x Brachiaria brizantha*): New crop has been harvested, with very limited stocks expected to be available April 2017.

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

Mombasa Guinea (*Panicum Maximum cv Mombasa*): New crop has been harvested, with stock expected to be available for shipping in April.

Sunnhemp (*Crotalaria juncea*): We are sold out at this stage though stock will be available from the end of April.



Katambora Rhodes Grass in Pakistan