



Key Features

- Midge rating of 6
- Semi open head type
- Medium maturity (similar to MR-Buster and Dominator / slower than Heritage Seeds HGS-102)
- Good seedling vigour
- Medium short in height
- Medium tillering habit
- Good standability
- Good grain size and test weight
- Red grain colour
- Moderate staygreen levels.

Description

HGS-114 is being introduced in Spring 2013, and is the second commercial grain sorghum hybrid released by Heritage Seeds. Over a number of seasons, it has proven to be a very high yielding option that appears well suited to softer dryland and irrigated conditions in the grain sorghum growing districts of Eastern Australia. It is a high yielding, medium tillering grain sorghum hybrid, offering excellent grain yield and performance when compared to highly respected competitor hybrids of similar maturity like MR-Buster and Dominator. HGS-114 offers an impressive package of very good seedling vigour, good standability, very good head exertion and head uniformity and ultimately, high yields.

Pest Resistance

HGS-114 has been evaluated by QLD DAFF for midge resistance - it has a confirmed official midge rating of 6.

Variety Management / Agronomy

HGS-114 doesn't require any varietal specific management considerations – however when considering broader management requirements, please consult agronomists from QLD DAFF / NSW DPI or experienced commercial agronomists / consultants in the relevant growing areas.

Disease Resistance/Tolerance

HGS-114 has been evaluated for both Charcoal Rot Lodging and Head Fusarium – results from research trials suggest a rating of 6.0 for a combined charcoal rot and stress lodging trait and 5.5 for Head Fusarium (where a score of 1 = very poor and 9 = excellent). For identification and management of other diseases such as Sorghum Ergot (*Claviceps africana*) and Leaf Rust (*Puccinia purpurea*) – please consult agronomists from QLD DAFF / NSW DPI or experienced commercial agronomists / consultants in the relevant growing areas.

Performance

Over a number of seasons, HGS-114 has been evaluated in numerous grain sorghum growing environments in Central Queensland south to the Liverpool Plains (NSW) and has been compared with a number of well-regarded competitor hybrids like MR-Buster and Dominator. HGS-114 offers impressive yield potential when compared to these competitor lines of a similar maturity – the yield comparisons at these sites were collected either with a weigh bin or with calibrated yield monitors. HGS-114 will be available for the first time in commercial volumes in 2013 – excellent performance thus far would indicate it is very well suited to the softer dryland and irrigated areas from Central Queensland south to the Riverina / MIA region of Southern NSW.



Grower & Consultant Testimonials

Drew Penberthy (Managing Director and Agronomist, PenAgCon, Bellata, NSW)

"We have been working with both HGS-114 and HGS-102 for a number of seasons prior to commercial release. HGS-114 has been particularly impressive, topping our on farm trials. Our growers consider HGS-114 as one of their preferred varieties. Within our consultancy, HGS-114 will certainly be one of our key grain sorghum options moving forward!"

Tony Lockrey (Agronomist – AMPS Commercial, Moree, NSW)

"In season 2011/12 we included HGS-114 in our comprehensive grower planted strip trial at Bellata. Planted in October the trial experienced a very wet season with heavy water logging during the vegetative and early grain fill stages. Late tillers were subjected to heavy midge pressure.

"HGS-114 performed well and topped the trial with a yield of 4.340 t/ha. As a result of this performance, HGS-114 was included in our 2012/13 trial plan. HGS-114 again topped the trial (8.180 t/ha) with HGS-102 coming in third. It appears that the genetics in the HGS varieties has suited the Bellata/Gurley area in two quite different seasons. We are encouraged that HGS-114 is commercially available this season."

Angus Blair (Agronomist – CRT Dalby Rural Supplies, Dalby, QLD)

"I evaluated HGS 114 in some in-house yield strip trials. It was planted at 60,000 seeds/ha. The HGS-114 expressed a moderate tillering habit. The head emergence and flowering of heads was very uniform.

"Despite a very wet finish that it endured, grain yield and quality was very good. At 13% moisture, the HGS-114 achieved a yield of 6.3 t/ha compared with a widely planted competitor hybrid at 5.4 t/ha. At a test weight of 77, screenings of only 1% and sprouting of 4%, HGS-114 achieved SOR2, compared with the competitor hybrid which was classified at SOR X. This meant that the HGS-114 had a net profit advantage of \$289 / ha, over the competitor hybrid. I will be very keen to look at it again, on a much larger scale!"

Plant Population

Even though target plant populations vary with conditions, the uniformity of the established plant population is always extremely important. The plant population targeted depends on the depth of soil moisture at planting and the likely growing conditions. Under dryland situations, lower tillering hybrids should be planted at slightly higher populations.

Consider re-planting when populations are less than about 12–15,000 plants/ha, especially with quick maturity or low tillering hybrids. In skip row situations, aim for plant populations similar to those for good dryland moisture conditions.

When calculating planting rates allow for an extra 20–25% for establishment losses when planting into a very good seedbed on heavy black soil using press wheels and 40–50% when seedbed conditions are fair or when press wheels are not used. Obtain the number of seeds per kg and the germination percentage from the bag.

To determine the planting rate (kg seed/ha):

$$\frac{\text{Required number of plants/m}^2 \times 10,000}{\text{Seeds/kg} \times \text{germ \%} \times \text{establishment \%}}$$

Example calculation:

$$4 \text{ (target plant population/m}^2) \times 10,000$$

$$30,000 \text{ (seeds/kg)} \times 0.90 \text{ (germ \%)} \times 0.75 \text{ (establishment \%)}$$

$$= 1.98 \text{ kg seed/ha}$$

(These notes regarding plant populations are a direct copied transcript from page 9 of the 2009 Summer Crop Production Guide – written and published by NSW DPI).

Seed Treatments

In 2013, HGS-114 will be available with OptiCOTE Plus seed treatment (Thiram fungicide + Gaucho® or Cruiser® insecticide + Concep II® seed safener).

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