G2
GUINEA GRASS

KEY FEATURES
- New variety of Guinea grass (confirmed by DNA test)
- Later flowering than commercial Guinea grass varieties
- Strong perennial growth habit
- High quality feed and greater production potential
- Readily eaten by all stock types, well suited to grazing or cutting
- Excellent cold tolerance at all growth stages
- Early season growth – exceptional winter bounce back
- Good drought tolerance and shade tolerant

DESCRIPTION
G2, a tetraploid Guinea grass, is a new Megathyrsus maximus type. Discovered in Australia, this strongly perennial variety exhibits superior growth characteristics including increased production, persistence and greater forage quality over commercial Guinea grass varieties. This new Guinea grass is a medium to short variety with long narrow leaves, distinctly different from the tall, broad leaved Guinea grass varieties currently sold. G2 demonstrates exceptional recovery after grazing or cutting. This variety has been used successfully for making hay and silage. Later flowering than other commercial Guinea grass types provides G2 the ability to maintain feed quality longer and out yield similar varieties in the market place.

VARIETY MANAGEMENT/AGRONOMY
G2 is well suited to tropical, sub-tropical and warm temperate coastal regions. This variety performs best on deep, fertile, moist soils and will tolerate varying soil types provided they are well drained. Will not tolerate waterlogging, salinity or very acidic soils. G2 can tolerate frosts well with plants recovering during the onset of warmer conditions. Tolerant of shade, G2 is an ideal option for under tree lines, provided soil fertility is maintained. G2 exhibits early season growth coming out of winter with exceptional ‘bounce back’.
FERTILISER/NUTRITION

The use of AgriCote coated seed ensures essential macro and micronutrients are immediately available to the seedling. Responds to phosphorus and potassium. N and P fertiliser is recommended at sowing, banded away from the seed. A post-emergence application of 100−150Kg/Ha of urea in pure stands will assist in stimulating greater stand development. A maintenance fertiliser program is recommended to replace nutrients removed by grazing or hay cutting over time, particularly at the high stocking densities which can be sustained by such grasses. The use of a soil test will form the foundation of a suitable fertiliser program.

USES

Complements Leucaena very well. Excellent option for high input, intensive grazing or hay cutting.

PERSISTENCE

Unlike other Guinea grass varieties, G2 is a strong perennial. This variety re-establishes quickly after grazing or long dry periods due to its robust root system. Can be used as a permanent pasture or a short to medium term pasture ley. Tolerates heavy grazing well. Long term persistence is dependent on adequate nutrition, moisture and ideal grazing management.

GROWTH HABIT

Erect, tussocky perennial that forms clumps. G2 Guinea grass is a short-medium Guinea grass type. The variety has a deep and extensive root system that can find water at depth. Annual dry matter yields are similar to the giant types but higher in cool season growing conditions.

TOXICITY

Pure stands of Guinea grass can cause photosensitisation in some situations, while also causing colic if eaten too wet or in excess. Has also been recorded to cause ‘big head’ in horses as a pure stand in some situations and hypocalcaemia in ruminants due to oxalate accumulation.

MANAGEMENT

The success of a pasture will depend on grazing management in the first season. Guinea grass should not be grazed in the first year until plants become well established and ideally after an initial seed set and drop. If used in a mix with legumes, a short period of grazing can be used to control Guinea grass bulk that can dominate legume components. Continuous heavy grazing of young regrowth can kill plants. For long term stand maintenance, G2 Guinea grass should not be grazed or cut below 20−30cm and should be grazed or cut at 4−6 week intervals to obtain the optimum balance between quality and quantity.

SUGGESTED SOWING RATES

(AgriCote coated seed)

Marginal Dryland: 4−6Kg/Ha
Ideal Dryland: 8−12Kg/Ha
Irrigated: 15−20Kg/Ha

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