

MEGAMAX™ 059

PANIC GRASS



550mm +



5.0-8.0



Wide range of soils of reasonable fertility



AgriCote

KEY FEATURES

- High quality feed
- Unrivalled persistence
- Excellent production potential
- Highly palatable
- Suited to grazing and cutting
- Adaptable to variable rainfall environments
- Early season growth



DESCRIPTION

Megamax 059 was selected in Australia by the Future Farming Industry CRC, DAFWA, NSW DPI and Heritage Seeds. It is a new variety of panic grass and the first sub-tropical perennial grass variety selected for both tropical and sub-tropical Australia — with the field evaluation undertaken in both temperate WA, northern NSW and QLD. It was selected for superior growth characteristics including increased production, high persistence and cool season tolerance in comparison to other commercial sub-tropical grass cultivars (*Megathyrus maximus*, syn. *Panicum maximum* is loosely tufted, erect, and rooting at the lower nodes.) Leaf blades are large with multiple tillering characteristics producing a high leaf to stem ratio.

VARIETY MANAGEMENT / AGRONOMY

All panic grasses require well drained soils and some form of rotational grazing to persist in the medium to long-term. Panic grass grows in most soil types providing they are fertile. Megamax 059 responds rapidly to rainfall even after prolonged dry periods. Although drought tolerance varies among cultivars, Megamax 059 can tolerate extended dry periods and is tolerant of short term flooding by moving water.

Establishment

Seed can be drilled or broadcast at 4-6 kg/ha of quality seed, and being a small seed, should be planted at no more than 1cm deep. Soil – seed contact is important. The use of press wheels or, on non hard-setting soils rolling after sowing, will improve germination and establishment. Megamax 059 has exhibited improved establishment vigour compared to Gatton Panic.

Fertiliser

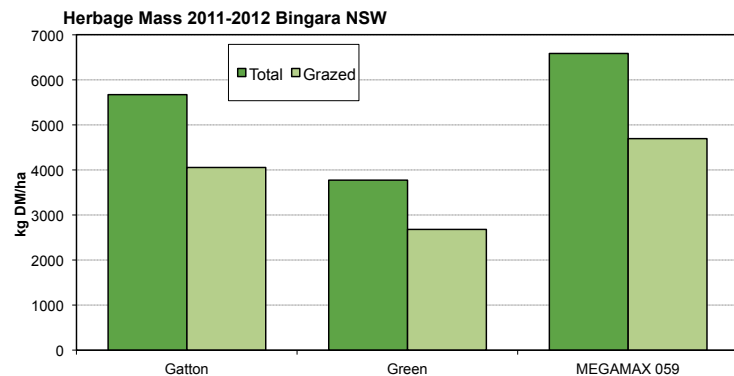
Megamax grasses require at least moderate fertility for long term persistence, particularly phosphate. Having enormous production potential, they will respond well to increased fertility inputs. N and P fertiliser is recommended at sowing, banded away from the seed. A maintenance fertiliser program is recommended to replace nutrient removed by grazing over time, particularly at the high stocking densities which can be sustained by such grasses.

Compatibility (with other species)

Megamax 059 combines well with summer legumes, such as Desmanthus Wynn Cassia, Burgundy Bean, Glycine and Siratro. Persistence of these legumes over time will be dependent on grazing management, as these legumes may be less tolerant of grazing or may have differing management requirements to the grass. In mixed swards with less palatable species, Megamax 059 may at times, be preferentially grazed. Suitable companion grasses may include Bambatsi Panic, Premier Digit and Rhodes grass. Megamax 059 can be grown successfully under open forest or plantation due to shade tolerance.

PERFORMANCE

Herbage production expressed as dry matter for Bingara NSW showing grazed and production.



Quality

Forage quality data collected at Tamworth clearly demonstrates the high quality of Megamax 059 vs superseded Gattton and Green cv.

Cv/Line	NDF (%)	ADF (%)	CP(%)	DMD(%)
Megamax 059	59.1	27.7	14.3	65.2
Gattton	58.9	24.6	13.3	63.2
Green	63.7	29.0	14.1	63.3

Persistence

Megamax 059 has shown improved persistence over both Green and Gattton panic grasses. The persistence was measured after 3 years under grazing at the following sites "Mitiamo" Bingara NSW, Tamworth Research Centre NSW & Badgingarra Field station WA.



Above: Megamax 059 rooting at nodes, early production crop, Mareeba

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