

SARDI 10 SERIES 2

Alfalfa

Medicago sativa

Alfalfa



500mm – 700mm+



4.5 – 8.5 (CaCl₂)



Most soil types



PBR



AL or AgriCote

SARDI 10 Series 2 benefits from excellent winter growth and is a leader in grazing tolerance for a highly winter active alfalfa. During its development, the breeder was successful in focusing on improving the very popular SARDI 10. The greatest emphasis was on increasing forage production and quality, pest and disease resistance, persistence and grazing tolerance.

A key physical feature is the increased leaf retention down the length of each stem. These advancements allow for even greater adaptability to Australian farming systems.

Key features

- Suited to cropping rotations, pasture mixes and year-round hay production systems
- Improved forage production and persistence over SARDI 10
- High winter growth and grazing tolerance
- Very good seedling vigour
- Highly productive 3 – 4 year+ option
- Multiple screens for excellent disease and insect resistance
- Perfectly suited to desert environments where they are utilised under high intensive farming systems.

Segments

- Specialist year round hay production systems
- Short-term cropping rotations (3 years)
- High intensity systems such as dairy
- Desert environments

Product fit

SARDI 10 Series 2 is particularly suited to irrigated cut and carry systems located in key desert alfalfa regions and flexible enough to be used in dryland mixed farming enterprises in Mediterranean climates with winter dominant rainfall patterns. As a highly winter active variety, SARDI 10 Series 2 will maximise production during winter months that typically receive the majority of rainfall. Its quick regrowth is also valuable in farming systems with intensive irrigated management including dairy farms and high yield hay and silage production.

Pest resistance

SARDI 10 Series 2 is highly resistant (HR) to spotted alfalfa aphid (*Therioaphis trifolii*) and blue-green aphid (*Acyrtosiphon kondoi*). As with other alfalfa varieties, SARDI 10 Series 2 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 coating will aid establishment in these circumstances.

Disease/pest resistance

SARDI 10 Series 2 is resistant (R) to phytophthora root rot (*Phytophthora medicaginis*) and anthracnose.

Spotted alfalfa aphid	Blue green aphid	Phytophthora root rot	Anthracnose
HR	HR	HR	HR

Agronomy and management

During the establishment period alfalfa seedlings are vulnerable and care must be taken not to overgraze as it can cause a severe reduction in plant density. Once established, rotational grazing is very important to help improve persistence of the crop. Ideally spell before cutting or grazing until 5–10% of stems commence flowering, or crown shoots are 1–2cm long on 50% of plants. Avoid cutting or grazing lower than 5cm. It is recommended to not graze the crop for more than a two-week period following which it is then spelled to allow restoration of plant reserves. Regular set stocking at moderate to high stocking rates reduces persistence.

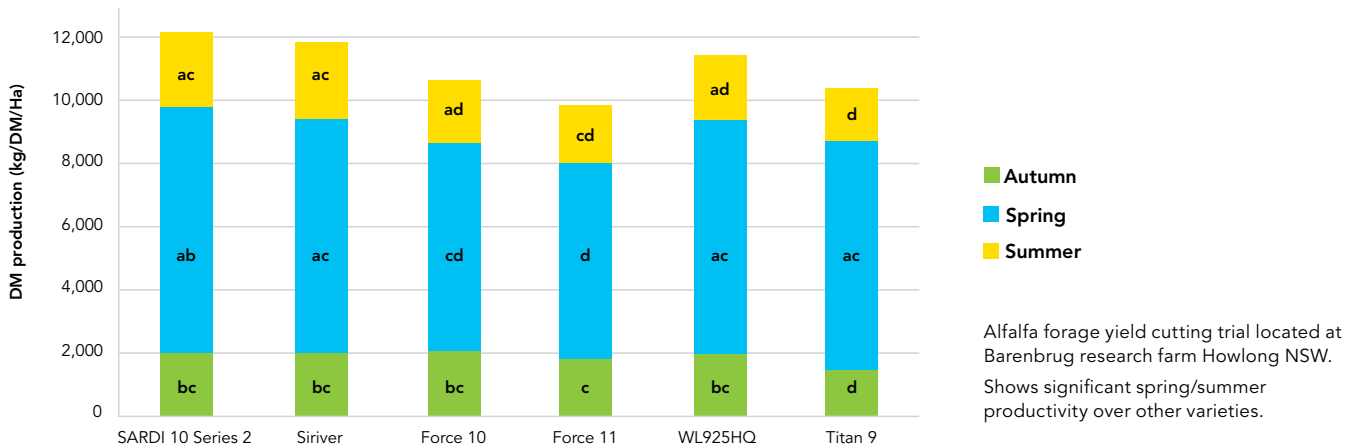
Performance

The excellent performance of SARDI 10 Series 2 has been demonstrated across a broad range of environments and farming systems in Australia. The significant breakthrough in alfalfa breeding technology that combines seedling vigour with year-round growth, persistence and grazing tolerance means SARDI 10 Series 2 is well suited to challenging broadacre farming systems. SARDI 10 Series 2 has shown excellent forage yield against competitor varieties in the highly winter active category.

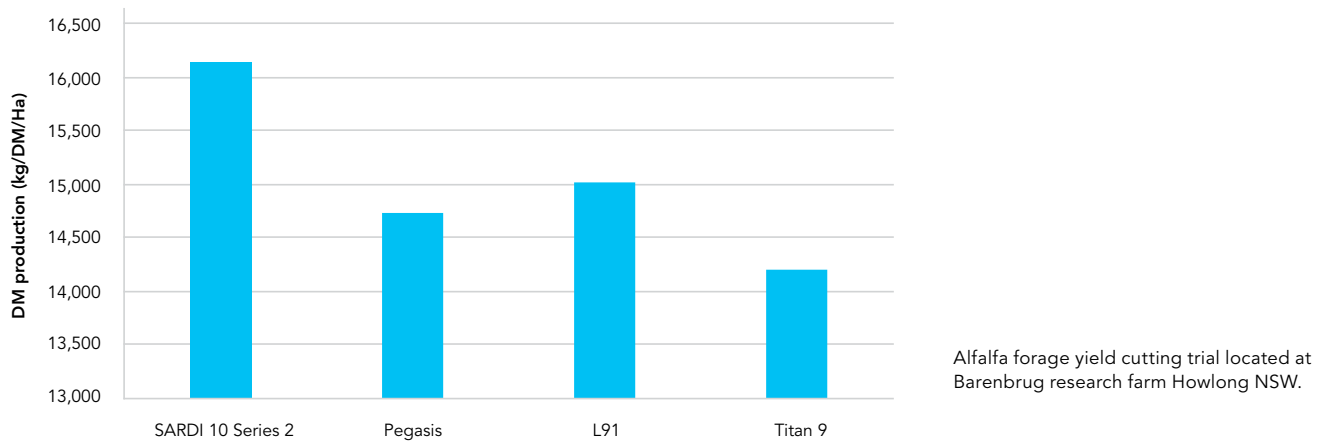


Alan Humphries SARDI Alfalfa breeder (left) and Allen Newman (right) of Barenbrug in a trial plot of SARDI-Barenbrug Alfalfa.

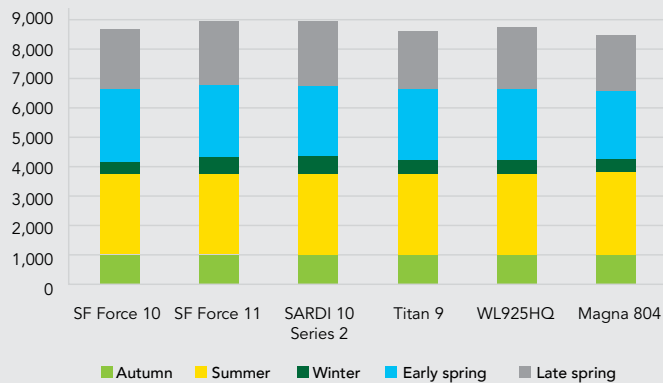
Seasonal DM production dormancy 9–11 alfalfa trial - Howlong NSW



Annual DM production dormancy 9–10 alfalfa trial - Howlong NSW



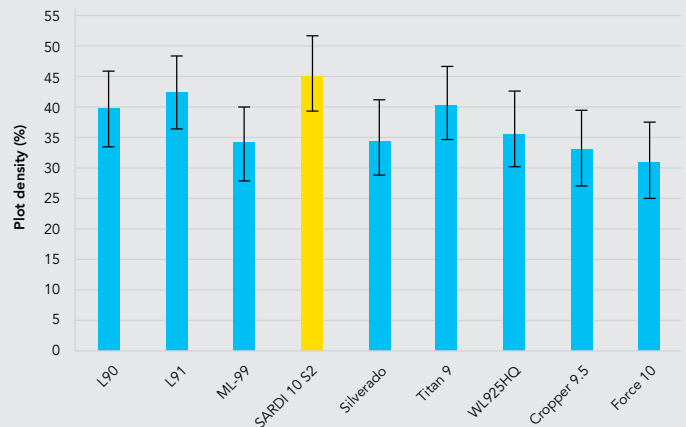
PVTN alfalfa trial - Stockinbingal NSW



SARDI 10 Series 2 demonstrated similar yield to the top performing cultivars, in an independent trial conducted at Stockinbingal, NSW as part of the MLA Pasture Variety Trial Network (PVTN)

Forage yield (kg DM/ha/yr.) of SARDI 10 Series 2 versus highly winter active cultivars in independent PVTN Stockinbingal, NSW alfalfa trial. Explore PTN data at; tools.mla.com.au/ptn/#/home

SARDI 10 Series 2 persistence versus competitor cultivars over 5 sites



Plot density (%) of SARDI 10 Series 2 versus competitor cultivars over 5 sites (Hamilton, Finley, Lockhart, Texas, Denman).

S.E.D: 6.699

SARDI 10 Series 2 under high disease pressure

Three year old plots at time of photo. Denman NSW.
Note improved plant numbers compared to L91 and Titan

SARDI 10 Series 2



L91



Titan



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