

# Ausclear 20 Sunflower

Summer crop

## Key features

- Black seed hybrid
- High oleic (monounsaturated) oilseed
- Early/medium maturity
- Semi-erect head type
- Short/medium plant height
- Herbicide tolerant – for use with Intervix® from BASF

## Advantages

- Larger seed – stronger seedling vigour
- Shorter plant – excellent standability and easier harvest
- Spring and summer planting suitable
- Earlier maturity beneficial for later planting or drier situations

## Key benefits

- Oleic acid levels consistently above 85% (min standard 80%)
- High yield potential
- Excellent TSV (tobacco streak virus) tolerance
- Herbicide tolerance for improved weed management

## Attributes chart

Attribute	Ausclear 20	Attribute	Ausclear 20
Maturity	Early – medium	Head Inclination	Semi – erect
Herbicide Tolerance	IT - Intervix®	Seedling vigour	9
Oil Type	High Oleic Oilseed	Lodging	9
Seed colour	Black	Rust Tolerance	High
Seeds/kg	15,000 – 18,000	TSV Tolerance	High

## IT (imi-tolerant) Sunflowers:

Ausclear 20 is the first herbicide tolerant sunflower hybrid to be released in Australia. It is tolerant to the herbicide Intervix® from BASF.

Imi-tolerant sunflowers such as Ausclear 20 provide a new management tool for in-crop management of weeds, particularly broadleaf weeds. Intervix® is registered for post-emergent use from the 2 to 8 leaf crop stage.

The knockdown and residual control provides protection from weed competition during that critical canopy development stage of the sunflower crop. This allows the crop to utilize all the available moisture for seed and oil development.

**Source:** ([https://crop-solutions.basf.com.au/preview/f/product/59cb37fb8d5c5b7640c8374c/intervix\\_label.pdf](https://crop-solutions.basf.com.au/preview/f/product/59cb37fb8d5c5b7640c8374c/intervix_label.pdf))

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# Agronomy and management

## Head inclination and stem curvature

Hybrids with pendulous heads tend to suffer less sunscald at flowering than erect hybrids. However, pendulous hybrids with highly curved stems are more prone to lodging, making harvesting difficult, and water may pool in the back of the heads, increasing susceptibility to disease. Ausiclear 20 with a semi-erect head makes the hybrid well balanced to address lodging, sunscald and water pooling issues.

## Seed size

Small to medium seed is preferred for early and / or spring plantings, as smaller seed generally establishes better in cooler conditions. Medium to large seed should be used in warmer conditions or when planting deeper into moisture. Larger seed is more suited to precision planters, as smaller, lighter seed may result in doubles in one hole of the planter plate.

## Seed treatments

Ausiclear 20 is supplied with OptiCOTE™ Select which includes an insecticide and a fungicide to provide protection against soil dwelling insects and soil borne diseases.

## Soil temperate and planting window

For early sowings, the soil temperature at 10 cm depth should exceed 10–12°C at 8.00 am Eastern Standard Time and the period of heavy frosts should be finished. While 10°C is the minimum, it is important to plant on rising soil temperatures. Sunflower establishment will be best when 7–10 days of favourable growing conditions immediately follow planting. Extremes of heat or cold may result in patchy plant stands.

Region	Early plant												Late plant																
	Aug				Sep				Oct				Nov				Dec				Jan				Feb				Mar
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1
Goondiwindi, Moree, Narrabri	◀	◀	●	●	●	●	●	●	▶	▶																			
Gunnedah, Quirindi					◀	◀	●	●	●	●	●	▶	▶																
Southern irrigation areas									◀	◀	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	▶	▶										
Southern Queensland				◀	◀	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	▶																
Central Queensland																													

◀ Earlier than ideal ● Optimum sowing time ▶ Later than ideal

Source: Serafin, Jenkins & Byrne, Summer Crop Production Guide 2010, Industry & Investment NSW

## Suggested sowing rates

Target	Marginal dryland	Good dryland	Irrigated
Seeds / Ha	25,000–30,000	35,000–40,000	55,000–60,000

## Oil traits

Monounsaturated sunflowers are preferably sown in spring, because higher average night time temperatures during seed development will enhance the oleic acid content.



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