

PERENNIAL PASTURE DEMONSTRATION

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AIM

To evaluate new fodder shrubs on poor performing areas.

BACKGROUND

Enrich is a project based out of SARDI which is exploring multipurpose healthy grazing systems using perennial shrubs. The enrich perennial pastures trial is exploring the general performance of a range of fodder shrubs at the Liebe Group Long Term Research Site. The trial aims to assess this performance on a soil type gradient from poor shallow gravel through to good sandy loam. The plots were replicated four times with two replicates on the good soil and two on the poor soil.

TRIAL DETAILS

Property	Long Term Research Site, West Buntine
Plot size & replication	36 shrubs (6 x 6) per plot x 4 replicates
Soil type	Shallow Gravel – Sandy Loam Gradient
Sowing date	02/07/2009
Fertiliser (kg/ha)	None
Paddock rotation	2006 = Lupins, 2007 = Wheat, 2008 = Wheat
Herbicides	None
Growing Season Rainfall	

RESULTS

Table 1: Average survival percentage of the perennial species grown at the Liebe long term research site west of Buntine. Percentages are the mean of four replicates \pm standard error

Species	Survival (%)	Standard error \pm
Acacia saligna	65	15
Chenopodium nitariaceum	59	20
Atriplex amnicola	58	2
Atriplex rhagodioides	57	9
Atriplex nummularia	56	37
Rhagodia parabolica	54	22
Rhagodia crassifolia	53	11
Atriplex semibaccata	53	21
Enchylaena tomentosa	47	17
Chameacytis prolifer	39	23
Rhagodia preissii	32	20
Medicago strasseri	24	14
Convolvulus remotus	20	21
Eremophila glabra	2	2
Rhagodia spinescens	0	0

COMMENTS

- All plants performed poorly on the shallow gravel with moisture stress becoming evident.
- Weed control was poor with wild radish competing strongly with the perennials for moisture.
- The trial will continue for the next 2 years with more results becoming available during this time, including palatability, feed value and persistence.

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