

# Wrightson seeds: Kangaroo Island Field Day demonstration site

## Background

A range of pasture and fodder species were seeded at the Kangaroo Island Race course for demonstration purposes for the 2009 Kangaroo Island Field Day.

## What was done

All the plots were seeded on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

## Lucerne Seed Varieties

### *Stamina GT6*

Stamina GT6 Lucerne is a persistent, grazing tolerant variety that has the ability to produce high quality hay. It is a winter active (6) and demonstrates exceptional plant density and yield following drought. Stamina GT6 is better sown as a single crop for a long term lucerne pasture but can be mixed with fescue and chicory to provide a high yielding long term pasture. Stamina GT6 can handle long periods of set stocking.

### *Cropper 9.5*

Cropper 9.5 Lucerne is a highly winter active (9.5) variety that is suited to winter grazing and hay production. Cropper 9.5 is quick to establish through winter and is high yielding. It has good quality and is persistent for its dormancy especially in drier conditions. It is also suited to under sowing of a cover crop or as a single stand. Cropper 9.5 is ideal for a three to four year break between cereal crops. It provides great value for dryland broadacre cropping.

### *Multifoli8*

Multifoli8 is a highly winter active variety (8) which is suited for sowing in autumn or spring. It is a multifoliate which means more leaf expression for premium quality hay. It produces dense

dark green bales and has a high resistance to lucerne pests and diseases

### *Kaituna*

Kaituna was developed as a robust, multipurpose lucerne for dryland farms. It ranks highly for all four key attributes: yield, persistence, quality and disease resistance. It can be under sown and used for hay or locked up for long periods for extensive grazing. It is a winter active (5).

## Annual Ryegrass Seed Varieties

### *Winterstar 11*

Winterstar 11 is a late flowering tetraploid annual ryegrass which provides winter feed and early silage followed by late season grazing. Winterstar 11 is an elite tetraploid that is easily established by oversowing, has high winter growth rates, and holds quality well into summer. It may produce two or more late season grazings and will respond to early summer rainfall. When other varieties have gone to head, Winterstar 11 keeps producing high quality DM late into the season.

### *Sungrazer T*

Sungrazer T is an early maturing tetraploid annual ryegrass that completes its lifecycle early for maximum winter and early spring feed. It is a very reliable alternative to Tetila. Being true to type, Sungrazer T is a more reliable grazing option than Tetila which tends to vary in performance. Sungrazer T finishes early for easy resowing of a summer crop. It is a good value, robust, utility annual ryegrass.

## Perennial Ryegrass Seed Varieties

### *Banquet 11*

Banquet 11 is the premier long term pasture variety in Australia. It is an exceptional long term ryegrass variety that provides high summer-autumn quality and all season yield and persistence. Banquet 11 will quickly respond to the autumn break producing high quality winter feed. It will produce up to three times the winter growth of older perennial ryegrass varieties.

### *Extreme AR1*

Extreme AR1 is a diploid perennial ryegrass. Extreme has been bred for high dry matter production, cool season activity and has very low aftermath heading. Extreme shows high levels of water soluble carbohydrates which in combination with low aftermath heading can improve rumen efficiency and therefore better animal performance.

### *Maverick Gold 11*

Maverick Gold 11 is a diploid Italian ryegrass. Maverick Gold 11 has been bred for high production in spring and summer. It shows increased yields and further improvements in summer pasture quality, disease resistance and persistence. Maverick Gold 11 has both Italian and perennial genetics to give improved persistence over Italian short rotation varieties. Maverick Gold 11 can be used in cooler climates, where there is summer rainfall, as a near permanent pasture.

## Summer Forage Seed Varieties

### *Astred Red Clover*

Astred Red Clover is an exciting red clover with unique qualities. It has been trialled extensively and shown high persistence and superior production over other red clover varieties. Astred is ideal for finishing lambs, cattle and dairy cattle.

### *Pronto Sorghum*

Pronto Sorghum is a sorghum/sudan grass x forage crop. Pronto is a quick growing sorghum with fine leaves which provides high quality feed in six to seven weeks from sowing. It provides a high bulk of feed and is also suited for grazing, silage and hay production.

### *Goliath Rape*

Goliath is a tall erect growing forage rape with huge yield potential. Goliath has been the highest yielding variety in trials since 1996. It also has excellent regrowth and is highly palatable. Goliath can be sown in autumn or spring and feed will be available in 10-12 weeks.

### *Results*

No yield measurements were taken.

### **For further information contact**

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### **Funding/Sponsors**

- Wrightson Seeds
- Kangaroo Island Field Day Committee
- Elders Kangaroo Island