

Perennial Summer Grasses

CROP/SPECIE	CULTIVARS *PBR # EXCL	SEEDING KG/HA	RAINFALL MM/YEAR	SUITED REGIONS	PLANTING MONTHS	SOIL REQUIRED	REMARKS
Bahia grass <i>Paspalum notatum</i>	Pensacola	Drilled 8-11 Broadcast 12-20 Irrigated 20-35	600 to 750 or irrigated	Whole of South Africa	Oct-nov Jan-Feb	Heavy clay and also wet soils	This is a perennial dryland grass that will do well in wet vleis areas and soils which are not all that fertile. It is cold sensitive, does not like sandy soils or dry, hot climates. Ergot on seed can cause abortion in cattle if ingested. Clovers can be sown with paspalum.
Perennial sorghum <i>Sorghum spp</i>	Silk *Jaffa	Drilled 5-10 Broadcast 10-15 Irrigated 15-20	400+ or irrigated	Warm summer rainfall areas	Oct-Nov Jan-Feb	Good adaptability to wide range of soil types	A drought tolerant perennial forage sorghum. Can be grazed with cattle from a height of 550mm. Can cause prusicacid poisoning if wilted or frosted slightly, when grazed, caution should be taken if you are in doubt. Makes good quality foggage and can be used to make silage, add molasses or silage additives for best results. It is sensitive to frost. Carrying capacity is roughly 1.5 MLU per ha and a DM of 6 tons per ha can be obtained dryland.
Blue Buffalograss <i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i>	Molopo Gayndah * Bergbuffel	Drilled 3 Broadcast 4-6 Irrigated 6-8	300+ or irrigated	N Province Gauteng Free State NW Province N Cape KZN	Oct-Feb	Widely adaptable except very sandy soils	Drought tolerant grass used for grazing and hay production. For best quality graze grass at a height of 750mm. The carrying capacity is 1 cow and calf during the summer months and the DM production usually varies between 3 and 4 tons per ha.
Bottle Brush Grass <i>Antephora pubescens</i>	Common # Wollie * SSW 21A	Drilled 5 Broadcast 7-9	250 to 650	N Province Mpumalanga NW Province N Cape Free State	Oct-Feb	Sand soils with a pH 5.8 to 6.8	A palatable grazing grass ensuring good intake, and makes good hay as well as foggage. Very leafy. Carrying capacity of 1-2 MLU per ha, DM production 3m/tons pa.
Buffalo Grass <i>Panicum maximum</i>	Green Panic Gatton * Puk P8	Drilled 2-4 Broadcast 6-8 Irrigation 5-6	450-1700 also under irrigation	All warm summer rainfall areas	Oct-Nov Feb-Mar	Very adaptable except on sandy soils	An indigenous perennial grass capable of high DM production up to 12 tons per ha given the moisture in areas where frost does not occur. It stays green throughout the year. Responds well to moisture and can be used in mixtures. Do not graze below 100mm.
Weeping Lovegrass <i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	Ermelo Puk 436 # Agpal	Drilled 2-4 Broadcast 4-6 High rainfall or Irrigation 5-8	650+ or irrigation	Cooler high rainfall areas	Oct-Nov Jan-Feb	Adapted to all soils except water logged soils	A perennial summer growing grass, produces good quality hay. Cut before it gets too high and old. Good spring and early summer grazing DM production varies between 6 and 14 tons/ha. Easy to establish, does not foggage well. Carrying capacity is between 1.5 to 4 MLU during the summer and moisture conditions.
Rhodesgrass <i>Chloris gayana</i>	Katambora Boma	Drilled 2-5 Broadcast 6-8	650+ or irrigation	Warm to sub tropical summer rainfall areas	Oct-Nov Jan-Feb	Very adaptable to most soil types	Palatable, fast establishing perennial summer grass. Does not like heavy grazing and is usually grown as a hay crop or mixed with other grass species such as Smutsfinger. Used to control eelworm in tobacco and pineapple rotation and erosion control. Carrying capacity is 1-2 MLU/ha with a DM production of 7-15 tons per ha.
Smutsfinger <i>Digitaria eriantha</i>	Irene * SSW11D	Drilled 2-5 Broadcast 5-8 Irrigation 6-8	500+ or irrigation	Cool summer rainfall areas	Oct-Nov Jan-Feb	Does best on sandy or stoney soils. Establishment on clay soils is difficult	A perennial summer growing grass which is palatable as grazing and makes good hay and silage. It is also good as foggage early in the winter season. Mixes well with other summer subtropical grasses such as Rhodesgrass. DM production can be between 12-18 tons per ha. Cutting or grazing should not be lower than 50mm above ground level.

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Bermudagrass <i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	*Vacquera	Drilled 4-6 Broadcast 5-8 Irrigation 10-15	600+ or irrigation	Summer rainfall areas	Oct-Nov Jan-Feb	Very widely adapted to most soil types	A perennial aggressive rhizomes grass. It is a fine leafed summer growing and very palatable if suitably fertilized. The DM can be 9-11 tons per ha. Is very suited to sheep.
Kikuyu <i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>	Whittet	Drilled 1-2 Irrigation 2-3	700+ or irrigation	Hotter summer rainfall areas	Jan-Feb	Prefer heavy clay soils with high organic material content	A very good Summer grazing grass. Grazing and fertilization management is the key to animal production from this grass. With a carrying capacity of between 2-8MLU per ha and an estimate DM production of 13 tons per ha is possible.
Brachiaria <i>Brachiaria brizantha</i>	Marandu	2-4kg/h	800+	Subtropic and tropical areas	Oct-Nov Jan-Feb	Widely adaptable - well drained soils	A perennial grass that is highly productive and can be used grazing or cutting for green feed. Very palatable.