

Perennial Summer Growing Legumes

| CROP/SPECIE | CULTIVARS *PBR # EXCL | SEEDING KG/HA | RAINFALL MM/YEAR | SUITED REGIONS | PLANTING MONTHS | SOIL REQUIRED | REMARKS |
|---|---|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--|---|
| Finestem Stylo <i>Stylosanthes quianensis</i> <i>var. Intermedia</i> | Oxley Verano | 2.5-3.5 | 600-900 | Warm sub-tropical regions | Oct-Nov Jan-Feb | Widely adapted to most soils Can be planted on poor soils with a low pH and badly drained | A summer producing legume, which has a shrub growing habit, reaching 1.5 metres in height. Fairly resistant to frost. Peak production is in late summer. Stock prefers to graze it during autumn and early winter. It combines well with other summer growing grasses to improve the protein quality. |
| Desmodium <i>D intortum</i> | Greenleaf Silverleaf | 2-3 | 900-1200 | Sub-tropical areas | From Oct | Widely adapted to most soil types | This has a runner growth habit. The silverleaf type is less drought tolerant and more susceptible to water logging but more frost tolerant than the greenleaf type. Combines well with Rhodes grass and Panicum maximum grass. The protein content is 18-23%. |
| Siratro <i>Agroptilium tropurpursum</i> | Common | 4-5 | 750-1250 | Sub-tropical areas | From Oct | Widely adapted to most soil types | This is a leafy runner plant with a deep root system. It is more drought tolerant than most other tropical legumes. It is sensitive to frost and cold. Combines well with Rhodes grass and Panicum maximum grass. Graze lightly during the spring and summer and more heavily in autumn. |
| Sheepsburnet <i>Sanguisorba minor</i> | Common | 4-5 | 600+ or irrigation | Highveld areas | Feb-Mar | Widely adapted to most soil types except low pH and high acid saturation soils | An evergreen perennial grazing plant with a deep tap root. A plant giving green grazing during winter at a low cost. No problems with prussic acid poisoning. Graze strategically allowing it to grow out between grazing. When planting, place seed just under the surface of the soil. |
| Crown Vetch <i>Coronilla varia</i> | Penngift | 12-20 | 300+ or irrigation | Cooler high-lying areas | Feb-Mar | Widely adapted to most soil types, even poor soils | A hardy perennial legume for grazing or hay production. Frost resistant. Gives satisfactory results on poor soils. It is drought tolerant and does not cause bloat. |
| Lespedeza <i>Sericia lespedeza</i> | # Au Lotan Au Grazer | 20-35 | 600+ | Summer rainfall areas | Early spring | Widely adapted to most soil types, even poor soils | A warm season legume for grazing and hay production. No problem with bloat. Will do on low-lying heavy soils, which are inclined to get waterlogged now and again. Cut for hay at 30-45cm in height. Can get three cuttings per season yielding 2-4 tons per ha. Graze at 20cm height. Sometimes known as "poor mans" lucerne. |
| Glycine <i>Neonotonia wightii</i> | Cooper | 4-6 | 750-1250 | Tropical frost-free areas | Sep-Oct | Fertile, well drained soils | A perennial legume with long, thin runners. It combines well with other legumes such as Desmodium and Siratro. Graze at 30cm height. Fairly palatable. Cooper is a mid season cultivar which is more drought tolerant than the other cultivars. |
| Birdsfoot Trefoil <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> | San Gabriel | 3-5 | 600+ | Cooler high-lying areas | Aug-Sep Feb-Mar | Widely adapted to most soil types | A perennial legume, drought tolerant, good for grazing and hay production. Does not cause bloat. It has a deep tap root with good side roots. Actively grows from spring until winter and is very palatable. |
| Giant Birdsfoot <i>Lotus pendunculatus</i> | Maku | 3 | 600+ | Cooler high-lying areas | Aug-Sep Feb-Mar | Poor, badly low pH, drained soils | A perennial legume which is more prostrate in growth habit than Corniculatus and has a shallow root system. Spreads with stolons and rhizomes. Grows actively from spring through to winter. Very palatable with no bloat problems. Can be used for grazing or hay production. Will adapt to wet vleis. |
| Lucerne <i>Medicago sativa</i> | <u>Cutting varieties</u> * Aquarius * Topaz * Hybri force 800 NEW * Magna 804 * SARDI 10 NEW * Pegasis NEW <u>Dual purpose</u> SA Standard * Super Aurora * Magna 601 * SA Select | 15-25 | 500+ or irrigation | The whole of South Africa | Aug-Sep Feb-May | Widely adapted but prefers deep, well drained soils with a neutral to high pH and no acid saturation | The best legume grown for grazing and hay production. Very drought resilient due to its deep root system. Carrying capacity of 3-5 MLU per ha under irrigation. Rotational grazing will benefit the persistence of this crop and increase dry matter production. For best results, cut lucerne when there is 10% flowering and you can get up to 8 cuttings in a good season. |