

# Bindaroo

## BUTTON MEDIC *Medicago orbicularis*



<b>Seeding Rate</b>	<b>kg/ha</b>
Dryland	10 - 15
High Rainfall/Irrigation	N/A

<b>Seed Treatment</b>	Goldstrike LongLife®
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**Description**  
A prostrate growing medic with high hard seeds and persistence

**Market Segment/Target**  
Regenerating annual pastures

**Features**  
Button shaped seed pod  
Ultra high hard seed level  
Semi-prostrate growth habit

**Benefits**  
Highly persistent even in high summer rainfall conditions which would break down hard seed  
Very good ground cover  
Good winter growth

<b>Range</b>	
Low Bloat™	N
Super N Fixer™	N
XtraLeaf®	N

<b>SEED AGRONOMY TABLE</b>	
Maturity	N
Hard Seed Level (description)	N
Waterlogging Tolerance	Poor
Flowering	Early

**Hard Seed Level 1 = Least Hard 10 = Most Hard**  
**Burr Burial Strength 1 = Very Weak 10 = Very Strong**

### ESTABLISHMENT GUARANTEE™

At S&W Seed Company Australia we're so confident about our seed genetics and seed quality, we will replace seed at half the original purchase price if it fails to establish satisfactorily in the first thirty days\*

### STRENGTHS

Early flowering and seeding and well adapted to marginal climatic conditions  
High seed production  
High levels of hard seed and a slow breakdown pattern ensure large seed reserves  
Good nutritive value with high protein, palatable

### LIMITATIONS

Productive in good seasons but not as productive as barrel and strand medics in average seasons  
Regeneration not as reliable as other medics  
Aphid susceptible  
Seedling regeneration from the resilient seed reserve could pose a problem in crop rotations though readily removed by herbicide

### PASTURE TYPE AND USE

A self regenerating winter growing annual ley legume in dryland cereal growing regions in the Upper Eyre Peninsula and Mallee of southern Australia and in pastoral systems in subtropical Australia. Used in marginal cropping and grazing environments owing to the resilience of the hard seed reserve.

### WHERE IT GROWS

**Rainfall:** Requires an annual rainfall of 200 to 650 millimetres in southern Australia and 300 to 650 millimetres in the sub tropics.

**Temperature:** Winter growing, can withstand frosts.

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## PLANT DESCRIPTION

**Plant:** Prostrate with trailing runners.

**Stems:** Trailing up to 50 centimetres long.

**Leaves:** Trifoliolate; leaflets oval; leaflets 9 to 18 millimetres long, 6 to 14 millimetres wide, toothed almost to base, upper surface glabrous; lower surface glabrous or hairy.

**Flowers:** Inflorescences 1 to 5 mostly yellow, sometimes with mauve markings.

**Pods:** Pod light straw coloured, spineless, flattened with papery edges, 3.5 to 7 millimetres long, 13 to 17 millimetres diameter, coils 3 to 7, seeds 10 to 26.

## ESTABLISHMENT

**Sowing/Planting rates in mixtures:** Sow at a rate depending on the proportion in the mix. Ensure seed is Goldstrike LongLife® treated.

**Sowing/Planting rates as single species:** 2 to 3 kilograms per hectare of scarified seed. Ensure seed is Goldstrike LongLife® treated.

**Sowing time:** Early autumn to early winter.

**Inoculation:** Goldstrike LongLife® treated. The use of Goldstrike LongLife® seed treatment is recommended to reduce damage from insects at seedling stages.

**Fertiliser:** Phosphorous is generally the single most limiting macronutrient for medics; sulphur and/or potassium may be required on some soils (especially sandy loams and/or in the subtropics). Some soils, particularly infertile sands, may also be deficient in important trace elements (eg. Cu, Zn, Mo and Co), some of which are directly involved in nitrogen fixation.

## MANAGEMENT

**Maintenance fertiliser:** Ongoing applications of P and S as required. Soil tests will determine the need and appropriate rates.

**Grazing/Cutting:** In the establishment year, delay grazing until plants are well established. Graze leniently until flowering then remove stock to maximise seed set. Makes more production when rotationally grazed. Does not respond well to crash grazing.

**Ability to Spread:** Rate of spread slow but, because of its high hard seed levels, could be spread through livestock.

**Weed Potential:** Low weed potential owing to slow hard seed breakdown pattern. It is palatable and readily eaten. In ley systems, it could be a weed of cereal and grain legume crops.

**Major Pests:** Susceptible to red legged earth mite, blue-green aphid, spotted alfalfa aphid and Cow-Pea Aphid.

**Major Diseases:** It is susceptible to powdery mildew.

**Herbicide Susceptibility:** Susceptible to residual herbicides from a cropping phase, particularly sulfonyleurea on alkaline, sandy soils.

## ANIMAL PRODUCTION

**Feeding value:** High levels of crude protein (17 to 22 per cent), energy (8 to 10 megajoules per kilogram ME) and digestibility (55 to 75 per cent DMD) in leafy growth.

**Palatability:** Readily consumed by livestock, either as green or dry feed.

**Production Potential:** Button medic has a lower dry matter production potential than the barrel medics, but has produced 7 tonne per hectare DM in a good season in the subtropics.

**Livestock Disorders/Toxicity:** Bloat can be an issue with cattle. Inoculate to prevent pulpy kidney.



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