L97

LUCERNE
: Medicago sativa

Quick Seed Facts

Dormancy
- Highly winter active 9

Sowing rate
- Dryland: 4-10kg/ha
- High rainfall/irrigation: 18-25kg/ha

Suitability
- Hay
- Grazing
- Silage

Grazing tolerance
Low — High

Seed treatment
- Goldstrike XLR8®

L97 lucerne sets a new standard in the highly winter active category, delivering excellent forage yields without compromising quality. Bred in saline conditions, it extends the range of soils where lucerne can thrive. With outstanding winter growth, L97 ensures consistent, high-quality feed year round, for grazing or cutting.

FEATURES & BENEFITS

- **Increased salt tolerance - a leading variety in trials evaluating cultivars for salt tolerance**

  Allowing for faster, more reliable establishment in adverse conditions

  Suited to a range of soil types, producing exceptional forage in both saline and non-saline conditions

- **High quality, dual purpose**

  Increased leaf-to-stem ratio, producing high quality forage, suitable for both grazing & hay production

- **Bred in Australia, specifically for Australian conditions**

  Specifically developed to thrive in Australia's unique climates and soil types, ensuring better performance and resilience

  Promotes sustainability by offering a seed variety that is aligned with the needs of Australian farmers

- **Highly winter active**

  Producing high forage yields all year round

  Extended cutting and grazing opportunities in autumn and winter

STRENGTHS

- Outstanding forage yield and quality in both saline and non-saline conditions
- High forage production year-round
- Dual purpose gazing and hay production
- Can be used in short-term cropping rotation systems

LIMITATIONS

- Not as persistent under heavy grazing as GTL60® or L56®

WHERE IT GROWS

Rainfall: In rain grown stands, 500-1200mm annually (subtropics); 250-800mm annually (southern and western Australia).

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WHERE IT GROWS CONTINUED ...

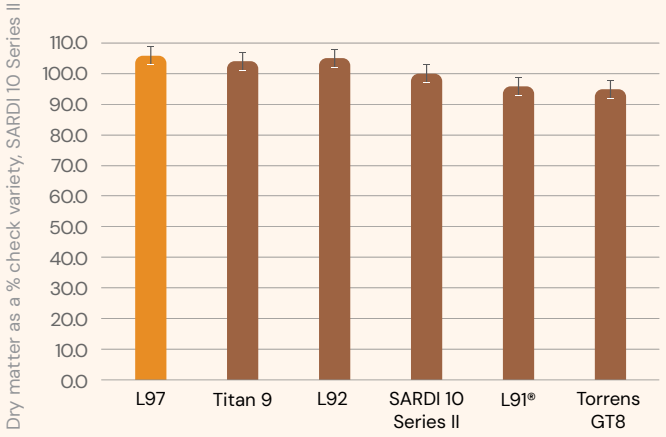
Soils: L97 performs well in a wide range of soil types. It produces outstanding forage yields in areas with both increased levels of salt and traditional lucerne growing soils. It was a leading variety in trials with salt conditions of 2131ppm in soil and 2950ppm in irrigation water. It germinated in saline levels up to 20 000ppm and produced high forage and good regrowth under 3840ppm of irrigation water.

L97 lucerne requires deep, well drained soils (sands to moderately heavy clays) with a slightly acid to alkaline pH. It is intolerant of high levels of exchangeable aluminium and even short periods of waterlogging.

Temperature: Optimum temperatures for dry matter production range from 15 to 25°C in the day and 10 to 20°C during the night.

YIELD DATA

Multi site, multi year average dry matter production as a % check variety



LSD (P=0.05) = 2156.5 CV = 15 Mean = 20331

Figure 1 shows the dry matter production from trials based at Keith in SA from 2022 – 2024. The long-term forage data demonstrates an increase in forage production of L97, of up to 7% over the life of the trials when compared with the check variety.

ESTABLISHMENT

Performance optimisation or limitations for your soil type can be discussed with your local agronomist.

Sowing time: Autumn, early winter and early spring. L97 is a highly winter-active variety, it is best to try and avoid mid-winter sowing period when temperatures fall, or frost is likely.

Sowing depth: 5mm-15mm, into a prepared soil bed. Good seed to soil contact is required.

Inoculation: Goldstrike® treated seed comes inoculated with the correct rhizobia required to infect the root system for optimum nitrogen fixation by the plant.

COMPANION SPECIES

- Forage cereals
- Pasture grasses
- Pasture legumes
- Forage herbs & brassica
- Tropical grasses

MANAGEMENT

Maintenance fertiliser: Maintenance fertiliser needs to be applied regularly in irrigated lucerne where large quantities of nutrient are removed in hay. Based on a soil test, nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus, calcium and sulphur levels need to be maintained for optimum dry matter production. Performance optimisation or limitations for your soil type can be discussed with your local agronomist.

Grazing/cutting: Cutting for hay is best done at 10% flower or when the basal shoots are 3-5cm in length. Typically, an irrigated stand of L97 has a cutting rotation of 25-28 days during peak hay production periods. Rotational grazing for long term persistence is recommended, whether grown as a pure stand or in mixed swards. Set stocking or continuous grazing into the crown of the plant is detrimental to lifespan of the plant. Performance optimisation or limitations for your enterprise can be discussed with your local agronomist.

Ability to spread: Low. Lucerne is usually cut or grazed before seed matures. If lucerne seed is dropped or spread by livestock, it rarely establishes effectively.

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Pest and disease ratings:

Spotted alfalfa aphid — HR

Blue green aphid — R

Pea aphid — HR

Phytophthora root rot — R

Anthracnose — LR

Bacterial wilt — MR

Fusarium wilt — R

Stem nematode — MR

Root knot nematode — HR

Pest & disease rating scale:

High resistance	(HR)	=	> 50%
Resistance	(R)	=	31-50%
Moderate resistance	(MR)	=	15-30%
Low resistance	(LR)	=	7-14%
Susceptible	(S)	=	0-6%

Herbicide susceptibility: Herbicides for post emergence and pre-emergence of broadleaf and grass control are available. Consult your local agronomist for herbicide options. Always check label before herbicide use. Best sown into weed-free paddocks.

ANIMAL PRODUCTION

Feeding value: L97 lucerne is highly digestible, a reliable source of crude protein and has high levels of metabolisable energy. It is well suited to farmers focused on animal performance, total feed production and pasture persistence.

Palatability: Very palatable.

Livestock disorders/toxicity: Bloat, nitrate poisoning and red gut. To minimise risks of cattle bloat, nitrate poisoning and red gut, do not graze immature/lush lucerne, especially with hungry stock.

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