

Q63

LUCERNE
: *Medicago sativa*



Quick Seed Facts



Dormancy

- ⊕ Semi-winter-dormant 6


Sowing rate

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

Suitability

- ⊕ Hay
- ⊕ Silage
- ⊕ Grazing

Grazing tolerance

Low  High

Seed treatment

- ⊕ Goldstrike XLR8®

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Q63 is a high-yielding, premium-quality lucerne variety. With moderate winter activity, it offers strong production even outside the peak season. It recovers quickly from grazing and fodder use, thanks to its high leaf-to-stem ratio that enhances forage quality. Q63 also boasts excellent resistance to pests and diseases.

FEATURES & BENEFITS

- ⊕ **The benchmark for high yielding, semi-winter-dormant lucerne**
Consistently producing up to 15% more dry matter than other standard varieties on the market
- ⊕ **Exceptional seedling vigour**
Reduced time to first cut maximising profitability of lucerne stand from an early stage
Increased flexibility in early herbicide application
- ⊕ **Moderate winter activity**
Higher growth rates coming out of the winter period than winter dormant varieties
- ⊕ **Excellent leaf-to-stem ratio with a large leaf size**
High-quality hay and silage production

STRENGTHS

- ⊕ Excellent hay quality
- ⊕ Dual purpose (hay and grazing)
- ⊕ Highly productive
- ⊕ High pest and disease rating
- ⊕ High leaf-to-stem ratio

LIMITATIONS

- ▶ Lower levels of winter production when compared to highly winter active varieties such as L97

WHERE IT GROWS

Rainfall: Dryland typically requires 500mm to 1200mm annually (subtropics) and 250mm to 800mm annually (southern and western Australia). Irrigation is preferred.

Soils: Q63 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 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.

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LUCERNE

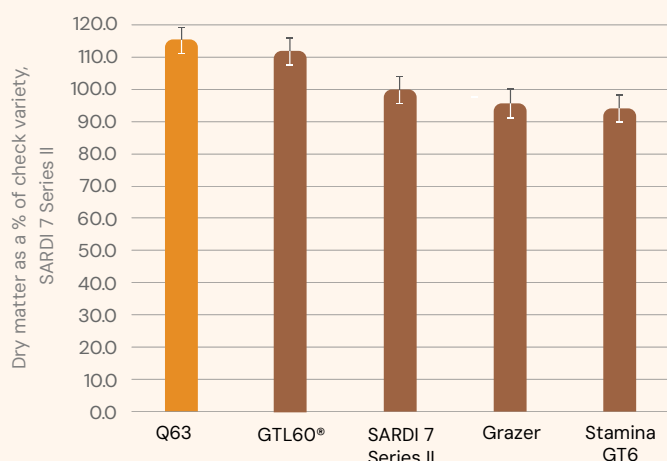
: *Medicago sativa*



Plant with confidence

YIELD DATA

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



LSD: (P=0.05) = 1822.9 CV = 13.5 Mean = 19063.0

Figure 1 shows the dry matter production from trials based at Keith in SA from 2022–2024. The forage data demonstrates an increase in forage production of Q63, of up to 15% 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 and early spring. Q63 is a semi-winter-dormant variety, it is best to try and avoid late autumn/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 Q63 has a cutting rotation of 33–35 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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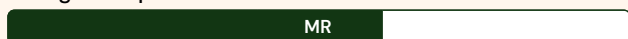
MANAGEMENT CONTINUED ...

Pest and disease ratings:

Spotted alfalfa aphid



Blue green aphid



Pea aphid



Phytophthora root rot



Anthraxnose



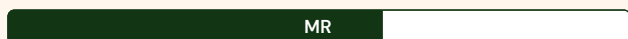
Bacterial wilt



Fusarium wilt



Stem nematode



Root knot nematode



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

Feed value: Q63 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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