

Balance[®]

CHICORY
: *Chicorium intybus*



Quick Seed Facts



Lifespan

- 2-3 years

Time to first grazing

- 8-14 weeks

Minimum rainfall

- 400mm annual rainfall

Sowing rate

- Dryland 3kg/ha
- High rainfall/irrigation 5-7kg/ha

Seed/kg

- Approx 830,000

Suitability

- Grazing

Seed treatment

- XLR8[®]

Balance[®] chicory is a perennial chicory, with good insect tolerance over forage brassicas. It provides summer feed that excels in promoting live weight gains in livestock. Ideal for warm conditions, Balance[®] offers a reliable, high-quality forage solution to boost animal growth and productivity.

FEATURES & BENEFITS

- **Perennial chicory type**
Excellent pasture mix option in perennial pasture blends
- **High digestibility and preferred intake**
Increased animal performance equals quicker to market
- **Tolerant to brassica-feeding insects**
Less insect pressure equals more feed for livestock
- **High forage quality and palatability**
Rapid rumen degradation leading to high daily dry matter intake

STRENGTHS

- May reduce bloat risk if sown with legumes
- Rapid establishment and high first year productivity
- Fast regrowth, improved heat tolerance over other pasture options
- Deep root system capable of extracting water and nutrients from depth
- Regenerates readily if allowed to seed
- Retains leaf better than lucerne in dry conditions
- Moderate to high frost tolerance
- **LIMITATIONS**
 - ▶ Susceptible to trampling and overgrazing
 - ▶ Requires high levels of nitrogen for maximum production
 - ▶ Not suitable for hay production as leaf becomes brittle when dried
 - ▶ Limited growth rates at low temperatures
 - ▶ Registered herbicide options are limited

WHERE IT GROWS

Rainfall: Balance[®] chicory is adapted to a wide variety of climates, from summer dominant to winter dominant rainfall areas, receiving minimum 400mm annual rainfall. It requires some rain or irrigation to achieve high production over summer.

Soils: It prefers well drained, deep, fertile soils, but will grow in heavier soils providing they are not prone to waterlogging for extended periods. While it grows best on slightly acid to neutral soils, it is moderately tolerant of acid soils down to a pH 4.2 (CaCl₂).

Temperature: Ideal sowing conditions are when the soil temperature is 10°C and rising in spring, or 12°C in autumn.

- 08 8445 1111
- info@alfagenseeds.com.au
- alfagenseeds.com.au

AlfaGen
SEEDS

Balance[®]

CHICORY

: *Chicorium intybus*



Plant with confidence

ESTABLISHMENT

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

Sowing time: Best sown in early spring but can be sown in autumn in longer growing season districts.

Inoculation: Not required.

COMPANION SPECIES

- ⊕ Forage cereals
- ⊕ Winter legumes
- ⊕ Pasture grasses
- ⊕ Clover & pasture legumes
- ⊕ Lucerne
- ⊕ Forage herbs & brassica
- ⊕ Tropical grasses

MANAGEMENT

Maintenance fertiliser: Annual dressings of superphosphate. May require additional nitrogen application to drive dry matter production.

Grazing/cutting: Rotational grazing management is the preferred option for persistence. A rotation of 1 week on, 3 weeks off is preferential. Plant height should be maintained between 5–40cm. Grazing pressure in summer can be manipulated to promote leaf growth and delay stem elongation and flowering, or to encourage flowering, seed-set and regeneration. Heavy grazing in late autumn and winter can reduce persistence if there is insufficient leaf growth to replenish root carbohydrate reserves. Grazing, slashing or cutting just prior to prolonged rainfall should be avoided as this can result in stem disease and increased plant mortality. Plants are susceptible to damage from trampling and overgrazing, particularly when dormant. Balance[®] chicory makes good quality silage but does not make good hay as leaves are brittle and break up on drying.

MANAGEMENT CONTINUED ...

Ability to spread: Can regenerate from seed under some circumstances but does not spread widely.

Weed potential: Low. Balance[®] is unlikely to become a weed since plants tend to be short lived, it is restricted to moderately fertile soils and is highly palatable and readily grazed.

Major pests: May be susceptible to earth mites and white fringed weevils, although damage is usually not serious. Slugs can cause significant damage and crop failure particularly in germinating crops when direct drilled.

Major diseases: Charcoal rot and sclerotinia rot. It is advisable not to sow chicory after sclerotinia susceptible crops, such as pulses, lucerne, canola etc.

Herbicide susceptibility: Susceptible to many broadleaf herbicides. Always check label before herbicide use. Best sown into weed free pastures. Always consult your local agronomist

ANIMAL PRODUCTION

Feed value: Has a good balance between crude protein, energy and minerals resulting in rapid passage through the gut and very high feed value, however, sometimes the diet may lack sufficient fibre causing scouring. Dry matter digestibility ranges from 66–80%, from 9–11MJ ME/kg and from 14–24% CP.

Palatability: Highly palatable.

Production potential: Very valuable for finishing livestock and promoting weight gain. Capable of producing high growth rates in lambs (290g/day) and calves (900g/day). Also useful for flushing ewes to promote ovulation.

Livestock disorders/toxicity: Some varieties of chicory have high levels of lactucin, which causes milk taint when chicory is fed to dairy cows, particularly where it forms more than 50% of the diet and is grazed too soon before milking. Leaves have been reported as poisonous to pigs and roots poisonous to cattle but these incidents appear to be rare. There are no reports of poisoning under Australian conditions. Does not cause bloat in cattle due to its high condensed tannin content. It is recommended that animals have a current vaccine program to assist in the prevention of clostridial diseases such as pulpy kidney etc.