Chomper

FORAGE SORGHUM: Sorghum x Sudan





Maturity

Mid

Sowing rate

- High rainfall/irrigation 15-20kg/ha

Seed/kg

Suitability

Grazing, hay, haylage and greenchop

Seed treatment

- Standard includesThiram fungicide only
- Enhanced includes Thiram fungicide and Epivio® C to protect from the phytotoxic effects of some herbicides
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Chomper forage sorghum is a versatile sorghum × Sudan grass hybrid, well-suited to grazing, silage, and hay production. Its large seed size and rapid emergence deliver quick establishment and fast dry matter production when you need it most.

FEATURES & BENEFITS

⊕ Large seed size

Leads to fast, reliable establishment

⊕ Good early season vigour

Increasing speed to first cut or grazing

Quick regrowth

Improving overall yield with multiple cuts or grazings through the growing season

⊕ High leaf-to-stem ratio

Helps to maintain quality in silage, hay or grazing

STRENGTHS

- Large seed size for quick establishment
- ⊕ Fast to first cut or grazing
- Multiple grazing opportunities
- Quick regrowth
- → Versatile uses hay, silage, grazing
- ⊕ High leaf-to-stem ratio

LIMITATIONS

- Stem thickness greater than that of Fine As
- ► For longer season options consider FlexiGraze®

WHERE IT GROWS

Rainfall: Suited to summer dominant rainfall areas or where supplementary irrigation can be utilised. Forage sorghum can be highly drought-tolerant and responds quickly to rainfall.

Soils: While sorghum will grow in a wide variety of soil types, it prefers highly fertile soil to maximise its production potential.

Temperature: Sow when the soil temperature is 15°C and rising for optimal establishment.





FORAGE SORGHUM

: Sorghum x Sudan



SUITABILITY CHART

| Hay | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| | | | 7 | | |
| Palatability | | | | | |
| | | | 7 | | |
| Standability | | | | | |
| | | | | 8 | |
| Early seedling vigour | | | | | |
| | | | | | 9 |
| Regrowth | | | | | |
| | | | | 8 | |
| Ease of management | | | | | |
| | | | | 8 | |
| Silage | | | | | |
| | | | | | 9 |
| Rating scale: Not recommended Excellent | 1 | | | | |

ESTABLISHMENT

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

Sowing time: Chomper forage sorghum requires a warm, summer growing period of about 4–5 months, with planting times usually between September and January. Sow when the soil temperature is 15°C and rising for optimal establishment.

Sowing depth: Ideal sowing depth is 3-5cm.

COMPANION SPECIES

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

MANAGEMENT

Maintenance fertiliser: Chomper forage sorghum is a nitrogen-hungry crop that delivers its best performance when nutrient demands are met. Conducting a soil test is recommended to establish baseline fertility and guide fertiliser strategies.

MANAGEMENT CONTINUED...

Grazing/cutting: Grazing should be managed carefully, especially when the crop is young or stressed, to reduce the risk of prussic acid poisoning. Allow plants to reach around 1m in height before the first graze or cut. Subsequent grazing or cutting can be carried out once the crop has regrown to approximately 60cm.

Multiple grazings or cuts will encourage additional tiller development, which helps reduce stem thickness in later growth stages. As with all forage crops, stock should be introduced gradually over several days to allow rumens to adjust. Matching stocking rates to crop growth is also critical to maximise utilisation and maintain feed quality. Forage sorghum grows quickly, so correct stocking rates help ensure grazing at peak palatability. Understocking can result in plants maturing too far, reducing feed quality, leaving surplus forage, and limiting regrowth. Avoid grazing or cutting below 15cm to support strong recovery.

Major pests: Aphids, armyworms, cutworms and *Helicoverpa* caterpillars pose the biggest risk to forage sorghum. Consult your local agronomist.

Major diseases: Anthracnose, charcoal rot, fusarium stalk rot, rust, grey leaf spot, maize dwarf mosaic virus, bacterial leaf streak.

Herbicide susceptibility: Consult your local agronomist for herbicide options. Always check label before herbicide use. Best sown into weed-free paddocks.

ANIMAL PRODUCTION

Production potential: Well managed Chomper forage sorghum can produce a total seasonal yield between 14-25t/ha of dry matter and contain between 6-9MJ ME/kg DM and 10-20% CP, this will vary based on growth stage, nutrition and seasonality.

Livestock disorders/toxicity: While bred for low prussic acid, all forage sorghums can produce prussic acid, especially under stress. Proper management practices, including careful grazing, can minimise the risk.

Nitrate poisoning may also occur where forage sorghum has failed to utilise the nitrogen present in the soil due to environmental stress on the plant. The addition of sulphurbased animal supplements can help to reduce these risks.

