# **FlexiGraze®**

**FORAGE SORGHUM** 

: Sorghum x Sudan x Sudan





Maturity

⊗ Ultra-late

(photoperiod sensitive)

# Sowing rate

- ⇒ High rainfall/irrigation 15-20kg/ha

# Seed/kg

## Suitability

Grazing, hay, haylage and greenchop

### Seed treatment

- Standard includes Thiram fungicide only
- Enhanced includes Thiram fungicide and Epivio® C to protect from the phytotoxic effects of some herbicides
- → 08 8445 1111
- info@alfagenseeds.com.au
- alfagenseeds.com.au



FlexiGraze® is an ultra-late flowering sorghum × Sudan × Sudan hybrid, offering exceptional flexibility for both hay production and easy grazing. Its fine stems and high leaf-to-stem ratio deliver excellent feed quality, while photoperiod sensitivity extends the growing period before flowering. This allows FlexiGraze® to hold quality late into the season, giving you more 'flexibility' for timing harvest or grazing.

## **FEATURES & BENEFITS**

- Photoperiod sensitivity provides a very long growing period prior to flowering Enables flexibility in management of grazing or cutting times Maximises yield given long vegetative growth period
- High leaf-to-stem ratio
  More leaf, less waste and higher dry matter yields
  Increased palatability which leads to improved liveweight gains
- High tiller density
   Strong regrowth and grazing recovery
- Low prussic acid risk
   Safer grazing over a wider range of growing conditions

# **STRENGTHS**

- ⊕ Exceptional late season production
- $oldsymbol{\Theta}$  Holds quality late into the season
- Outstanding hay quality
- Excellent grazing utilisation
- Longer maturity/vegetative period to maximise yield over the season
- Easier management as flowering will not occur until late summer or autumn depending on latitude

#### **LIMITATIONS**

- Stem thickness greater than that of Fine As forage sorghum
- Better suited to grazing or hay. For silage, consider Chomper forage sorghum
- Slower regrowth than Chomper or Fine As forage sorghums

# 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.



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#### **SUITABILITY CHART**

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

# **ESTABLISHMENT**

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

**Sowing time:** FlexiGraze® 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: FlexiGraze® 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 FlexiGraze® 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.

