

Brighton Cocksfoot

Dactylis glomerata



Seeding Rate	kg/ha
Dryland	3 - 4
High Rainfall/Irrigation	6 - 10

Seed Treatment None/XLR8™ optional

Description

A robust intermediate type cocksfoot bred for its soft leaf, high palatability and persistence in tough Australian conditions

Market Segment/Target

Beef, sheep and long-term pasture

Features

New soft-leaf technology
Increased winter activity
Excellent production in marginal conditions

Benefits

Excellent tolerance to acid soils
Very persistent with strong tolerance to light and infertile soils
Strong heat tolerance with strong summer production
Early-mid maturity

ESTABLISHMENT GUARANTEE®

At S&W Seed Company Australia we're so confident about our seed genetics and seed quality, we will replace seed at half the original purchase price if it fails to establish satisfactorily in the first thirty days*

STRENGTHS

Responsive to increased soil fertility
Tolerates heavy grazing once established (particularly semiwinter dormant cultivars)
Grows well on a wide range of soil types
Tolerates waterlogging and moderate salinity
Few pests and diseases
Deep root system helps dry soil profile and reduces rate of soil acidification

LIMITATIONS

Relatively slow to establish, similar to phalaris and tall fescue
Low production in the establishment year
Seedlings are sensitive to competition from annual grasses
Requires good management to enhance survival in marginal drier/hotter areas (e.g. North West Slopes of NSW)

PASTURE TYPE AND USE

Used widely in the inland high rainfall zone and adjacent higher-rainfall cropping areas of southern Australia for all types of grazing stock, but mainly sheep and beef cattle. Suitable also for hay and silage.

WHERE IT GROWS

Rainfall: Minimum average annual rainfall 400 millimetres in South Australia, 400 to 450 millimetres in Victoria, 500 to 550 millimetres in southern NSW and 650 millimetres on the North West Slopes of NSW.

Soils: Grows on most soils, but has a competitive advantage on light textured soils with lower fertility. Tolerant of low pH and aluminium relative to other grasses. Does not tolerate wet soils.

Temperature: Grows best in the temperature range 15 to 25°C. Survives from frosting, but tends to lose green leaf content after repeated frosts. Moderate tolerance to heat in summer.

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PLANT DESCRIPTION

Plant: Tufted, robust, deep-rooted temperate perennial grass, growing 1 metre tall at maturity. Spreads by tillering and seedling recruitment.

Stems: Base of stems are folded and leaves have a light green appearance.

Leaves: Leaves are folded with a canoe-shaped tip. Hairless, to 20 centimetres long and about 0.5 to 1 cm wide. Light green colour with a blue tone.

Seedhead: Branched with clump-like panicles.

Seeds: Light cream colour, very small and bulky.

ESTABLISHMENT

Grasses and/or Cereal: Other slow-establishing grasses such as phalaris and tall fescue. Can be sown with perennial ryegrass in higher rainfall areas.

Legumes: Clover (subterranean, white), greater lotus, lucerne in appropriate regions.

Sowing/Planting rates in mixtures: 1 to 3 kilograms per hectare. Sowing time: Can be sown in autumn (all areas) or late winter/ early spring (Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, Tablelands of NSW).

Sowing/Planting rates as single species: 6 to 9 kilograms per hectare, normally 3 kilograms per hectare.

Sowing Time: Autumn and spring.

Fertiliser: If soil is low in phosphorus (P), apply P fertiliser at sowing and maintain regular applications in later years. Use molybdenum (Mo) for clover component where recommended. Apply sulphur (S) in deficient soils. Starter-type fertiliser can be used where nitrogen (N) levels are low.

MANAGEMENT

Maintenance fertiliser: A productive pasture requires good levels of P, N, S and K. Build up soil P to maintain a vigorous clover component since productivity will decline if clover disappears. Maintain S and K in deficient soils. N fertiliser can be effective in the absence of a companion legume or to boost seasonal production if required.

Grazing/Cutting: Careful rotational grazing in the first year, then robust to a range of grazing methods.

Ability to Spread: Spreads by tillering and clumps increasing in diameter.

Weed Potential: Low threat.

Major Pests: Mature stands are generally unaffected by pests. Seedlings are susceptible to damage from red-legged earth mite, blue oat mite, aphids, field crickets, white curl grubs (scarab grubs) and slugs and snails. Seed-harvesting ants can be a problem in removing surface-sown seed.

Major Diseases: Leaf rust can affect cocksfoot but the plants generally grow out of the infection with no long term consequences for survival. Grazing will remove the infected leaves and encourage new growth.

Herbicide Susceptibility: Sensitive to glyphosate and grass specific herbicides.

ANIMAL PRODUCTION

Feeding value: Cocksfoot has moderate feed value.

Palatability: Palatable.

Production Potential: Good.

Livestock Disorders/Toxicity: No known disorders specific to cocksfoot.



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Disclaimer: S&W Seed Company has taken all reasonable care in the preparation of this publication. The information contained is thought to be correct at the time of publication. Always seek professional advice from your local agronomist or S&W representative prior to purchasing any products. Combined information provided courtesy of S&W.