



# Subtropical Grass & Legume Guide

**AlfaGen**  
SEEDS



It all  
starts  
with a  
Seed

## Why choose AlfaGen Seeds?

At AlfaGen Seeds, our roots run deep into the land we love. No jargon, just real talk about how we can make a real difference. We understand the soil under your fingernails, the early morning starts and the sheer determination it takes to make things grow. With decades of hands-on experience and local know-how, we're here to share what we've learned. Australian grown, our knowledge comes straight from the field, farm-tested for Aussie conditions.

Our aim is simple – to support Aussie farmers with the best seeds, the right information and a helping hand. We'll provide you with not only top-notch seeds but also the knowledge and tools to help you grow.

**It all starts with a seed.**



# Subtropical grasses

Tropical grasses are well-suited to challenging climates, offering reliable performance in a variety of soil types. Their palatability and persistence make them a practical choice for grazing or hay production in tropical and subtropical climates.



## Gatton

**PANIC GRASS**

: *Panicum maximum*

Subtropical grass adapted to a wide variety of soil types

Recommended sowing rate	6-12kg/ha
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Seed treatment	Goldstrike XLR8®
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- ⊕ Suitable to a variety of soil types
- ⊕ Moderately tolerant to drought
- ⊕ Suited for grazing or cutting for hay
- ⊕ Adaptable, clumping type



## Bambatsi

**PANIC GRASS**

: *Panicum maximum*

Subtropical grass well suited to heavy soils

Recommended sowing rate	6-12kg/ha
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Seed treatment	Goldstrike XLR8®
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- ⊕ Cold and drought tolerant
- ⊕ High forage quality
- ⊕ High levels of animal performance
- ⊕ Reliable grass for heavy soils



# Premier

**DIGITARA**

: *Digitaria eriantha*

Subtropical grass with high palatability and intake potential

Recommended sowing rate 6-12kg/ha

Seed treatment Goldstrike XLR8®

- ⊕ Persists well on light soils
- ⊕ Good acid tolerance
- ⊕ Highly palatable
- ⊕ Fine stems result in high animal intake



# Capricorn®

**RHODES GRASS**

: *Chloris gayana*

Later maturing subtropical forage Rhodes grass

Recommended sowing rate 6-12kg/ha

Seed treatment Goldstrike XLR8®

- ⊕ Later maturing than Katambora
- ⊕ Finer stems
- ⊕ Vigorous regrowth from grazing & cutting for hay
- ⊕ Highly palatable for grazing



# Callide

**RHODES GRASS**

: *Chloris gayana*

Improved subtropical Rhodes grass variety

Recommended sowing rate 6-12kg/ha

Seed treatment Goldstrike XLR8®

- ⊕ Drought tolerant
- ⊕ Later flowering than Katambora
- ⊕ Improved palatability
- ⊕ More productive than Katambora



# Bisset

**CREEPING BLUEGRASS**

: *Bothriochloa inculpta*

High quality subtropical grass with excellent ground cover

Recommended sowing rate 6-12kg/ha

Seed treatment Goldstrike XLR8®

- ⊕ Highly palatable
- ⊕ Excellent drought tolerance
- ⊕ Grazing tolerant
- ⊕ Long-term perennial grass base for a pasture
- ⊕ Grows in a range of conditions

# Subtropical blends

SOWsmart® blends combine top-performing seed varieties with ongoing innovation to create pastures well suited to Australia's diverse environments. With options designed for different livestock operations, SOWsmart® makes it simpler to find the right pasture.

## Medic Oversow

### SOWSMART® BLEND

Minimum rainfall	350mm
Soil type	Suitable to most
Seeding rate	3-10kg/ha
Usage	Pasture production

<b>Cavalier</b> spineless burr medic Goldstrike®	25%
<b>Bindaroo</b> button medic Goldstrike®	25%
<b>Silver</b> snail medic Goldstrike®	25%
<b>Penfield</b> spineless barrel medic Goldstrike®	25%

A well-rounded combination of medic designed to provide quality autumn and winter production in existing subtropical and native pastures. Extremely hard seeded, with the ability to set abundant amounts of seed, ensuring persistence over many years.

## HDL

### SOWSMART® BLEND

Minimum rainfall	350mm
Soil type	Suitable to most
Seeding rate	20-25kg/ha
Usage	Pasture production

<b>Cavalier</b> spineless burr medic Goldstrike®	30%
<b>Zulumax</b> arrowleaf clover Goldstrike®	25%
<b>SARDI Persian</b> clover Goldstrike®	25%
<b>Border</b> balansa clover Goldstrike®	20%

A high-density legume mix suited to medium and higher rainfall zones. It provides outstanding dry matter production & nitrogen (N) fixation. An effective & profitable way of managing herbicide resistant annual ryegrass. This blend can contribute up to 50kg/ha of N for subsequent crops, the equivalent of 100kg/ha of urea.

# Tropical Beef LS

## SOWSMART® BLEND

Minimum rainfall	650mm
Soil type	Light
Seeding rate	6-12kg/ha
Usage	Subtropical pasture

<b>Capricorn</b> ® Rhodes grass	30%
<b>Gatton</b> panic grass	25%
<b>L70</b> lucerne	15%
<b>Premier</b> digitaria grass	30%

Well suited to light textured soils. Given favourable seasonal conditions, this blend can produce quality feed over a greater portion of the growing season.

# Tropical Beef HS

## SOWSMART® BLEND

Minimum rainfall	650mm
Soil type	Light & heavy
Seeding rate	6-12kg/ha
Usage	Subtropical pasture

<b>Bambatsi</b> panic grass	20%
<b>Bisset</b> creeping bluegrass	10%
<b>Capricorn</b> ® Rhodes grass	30%
<b>Cavalier</b> spineless burr medic	10%
<b>Gatton</b> panic grass	20%
<b>GTL60</b> ® lucerne	10%

Well suited to heavy soils, this blend combines robust grasses, perennial legumes and hard seeded annual medics, ensuring longevity and quality for your production system.

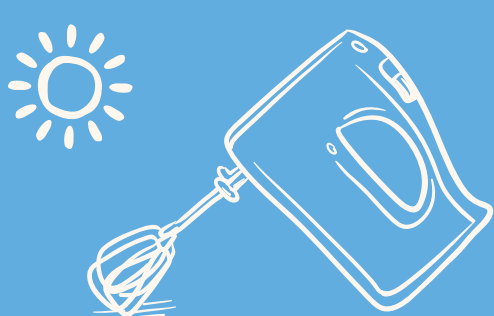
# Slopes and Plains

## SOWSMART® BLEND

Minimum rainfall	650mm
Soil type	Light & heavy
Seeding rate	3-8kg/ha
Usage	Subtropical pasture

<b>Bambatsi</b> panic grass	25%
<b>Gatton</b> panic grass	25%
<b>Premier</b> digitaria grass	50%

A grass blend that is well adapted to a wide range of soil types. Establishing a grass only pasture allows hassle-free implementation of critical management techniques such as broadleaf weed control in the establishment year, and the introduction of legumes in subsequent years once the grasses have established satisfactorily.



**Custom blends available upon request**

Your specific choice of cultivar is determined by your climate and soil type. Please consult your local agronomist or Territory Manager to identify the most suitable variety or blend for your requirements.

# Subtropical grass & legume sowing guide

Grasses	Variety	Sowing rate kg/ha coated seed	Min rainfall	Soil type	Climatic tolerance		Growth
					Drought	Cold	
Blue grass (Angleton)	Floren	4 - 12	700mm+	Light to heavy clay	Good	Good	Summer
Brachiaria humidicola	Humidicola	4 - 12	1000mm+	Free draining loams to clay	Good	Low	Spring
Brachiaria signal	Signal	4 - 12	1000mm+	Free draining loams to clay	Fair	Fair	Summer
Buffel	Usa, Gayndah, Biloela	4 - 12	400mm - 800mm	Light textured to heavy soils	Excellent	Poor	Summer
Creeping blue grass	Bisset	6 - 12	550mm+	Clay loam to sandy loam	Good	Good	Summer
Digit	Premier	6 - 12	600mm+	Low fertility	Good	Good	Summer
Kikuyu	Whittet	4 - 12	800mm+	Moderately drained loams and clay	Good	Good	Spring
Panic	Gatton, Green, Bambatsi	6 - 12	600mm+	Wide range	Moderate good	Good	Summer
Paspalum	Dilatatum	4 - 12	1000mm+	Coastal loams, wetlands	Good	Good	Spring
Pigeon grass	Purple	4 - 12	600mm+	Heavy clays with good fertility	Good	Fair	Summer
Rhodes grass	Callide	6 - 12	600mm+	Wide range	Good	Good	Spring
	Capricorn	6 - 12	600mm+				
	Fine Cut	6 - 12	600mm+				
Setaria	Narok, Splenda	4 - 12	600mm+	Well drained coastal soils with good moisture holding capacity	Poor	Fair	Spring

Legume	Variety	Sowing rate kg/ha coated seed	Min rainfall	Soil type	Climatic tolerance		Growth
					Drought	Cold	
Burgundy bean	Burgundy Bean	3 - 8	400mm+	Heavy textured alkaline	Excellent	Moderate	Summer
Cassia	Wynn	1 - 4	400mm+	Sandy free draining	Poor if ungrazed	Good	Summer
Creeping vigna	Shaw	1 - 2	1200mm+	Sandy to medium clays	Poor	Fair	Spring
Desmanthus	Marc	2 - 6	500mm+	Medium to heavy clay	Good	Good	Summer
Glycine	Tinaroo, Cooper	2 - 6	750mm+	Deep friable clays	Good	Good	Spring
Siratro	Aztec Atro	2 - 6	700mm+	Sandy to friable heavy clays	Good	Good	Spring
Stylo	Seca	1 - 5	400mm+	Fertile soils	Good	Fair	Summer
	Verano	1 - 5	400mm+				
	Fine Stem	1 - 5	700mm+				



Sowing activity	Persistence	Palatability	Features
Summer, autumn	Very good	Very good	Very vigorous growth habit, very tolerant of waterlogging, suits alkaline soils, and displays moderate salt tolerance. Tolerant of drought and heavy grazing.
Spring, summer, autumn	Good	Moderate	Stoloniferous, vigorous growth habit, tolerates waterlogging, acid tolerant, and fair salt tolerance.
Summer	Good	Fair	Highly vigorous grass that sets roots at the nodes. Very persistent.
Summer	Good	Good	Deep rooted, erect tussocky plant, recovers quickly after light rain. Very persistent.
Summer, autumn	Very good	Good	High-quality, persistent grass that is tufted, and very stoloniferous.
Summer	Good	Good	Highly palatable, suited to a wide range of soils.
Spring, summer, autumn	Good	Good	Deep rooted with stolons and rhizomes, can dominate sward, suitable for acid and aluminium soils. Very competitive. Productive under heavy grazing.
Summer, autumn	Good, better in shade	Very good	Very palatable, can be preferentially grazed. Can withstand heavy grazing once established. Green panic and gatton panic grasses display moderate shade tolerance.
Spring, summer, autumn	Good	Very good	Tolerant of poor soils, suits central and north coast nsw. Competes well with weeds. Tolerates waterlogging.
Summer	Good	Very good	High quality, drought tolerant grass that re-grows rapidly.
Spring, summer, autumn	Good	Good	Later flowering, higher productivity and palatability than katambora with high fertility conditions. Finer leaves, suited to dual-purpose grazing and hay production. Finer leaves, displays high salt tolerance, uniform maturity, and is ideal for hay production.
Spring, summer, autumn	Good	Fair	Narok has improved frost tolerance and winter growth. Splenda is a hardy, highly palatable, late maturing variety. Both tolerate waterlogging.

Sowing activity	Persistence	Palatability	Features
Summer	Good	Very good	Tolerates cold better than other subtropical legumes. Highly palatable and can be preferentially grazed when in a mix with subtropical grasses.
Summer, autumn	Good	Very good	High animal production in autumn. Adapted to acid soils. Highly vigorous growth habit.
Spring, autumn	Good	Good	Superior cold tolerance and moderate drought tolerance. High-quality, suitable for pastures and hay production. Tolerates seasonal flooding.
Summer	Good	Very good	High-quality, productive, and palatable plant that does not cause bloat.
Spring, summer, autumn	Very good	High	Slow to establish, and can tolerate short periods of flooding. Highly palatable and can be preferentially grazed.
Spring, summer, autumn	Good	High	Tolerant of salinity, and moderately tolerant of soil aluminium and magnesium. Well adapted to drought. Highly palatable.
Summer	Good	Good	Easy to manage hardy perennial shrubby legume that tolerates hard conditions. Very persistent.

# Summer forage sowing guide

Summer forage	Variety	Sowing rate kg/ha coated seed	Min rainfall	Soil type	Climatic tolerance		Growth
					Drought	Cold	
Butterfly pea	Milgarra	2 - 4	600mm+	Sandy loam to heavy clay	Good	Good	Spring
Cow pea	Red caloona	10 - 25	500mm+	Wide range	High	Poor	Summer
	Ebony	10 - 25	500mm+	Wide range	Good		Summer
Dolichos (lab lab)	Rongai, Highworth	15 - 20	600mm+	Sandy to heavy clay	Good	Good	Summer
Millet	Shirohie	10 - 25	500mm+	Well structured fertile soils	Good	Poor	Spring
	Japanese						
	Rebound						
	Siberian						
Sorghum	Calibre	6 - 25	400mm+	Wide range	Good	Poor	Spring
	Chomper						
	Fine As						
	Flexigraze®						
	Sweet As						



Sowing activity	Persistence	Palatability	Features
g, summer, autumn	Perennial	High	Moderate tolerance to salinity and sodicity. High palatability and nutritional value.
er, autumn	Annual	High	Improves soil fertility. High nutritive value. Very palatable.
er, autumn		High	Vigorous growth habit, provides high quality feed, and multiple grazings.
er, autumn	Annual	High	High quality forage, suits a wide range of soil types and is tolerant to cool temperatures. Drought tolerant once established.
g, summer	Annual	Good	Suited to early plantings and cooler soil temperatures, no prussic acid issues, will tolerate some waterlogging, and provides high-quality quick feed.
			Semi-prostrate, high tillering, slower but longer growth than japanese and shirohie millet.
g, summer, autumn	Annual	High; varies with fertility and height	Very strong early vigour with strong regrowth from cutting and grazing. Good leaf to stem ratio. High quality feed.
			Photoperiod sensitive, ultra late flowering.
			Follow guidelines to avoid potential prussic acid issues.

# Seed treatment options

At AlfaGen Seeds, we're dedicated to embracing new technology, continually enhancing our range to deliver cutting-edge solutions and superior performance in our leading forage products.

## Goldstrike®

AlfaGen Seeds Goldstrike® is a high-quality seed coating with innovative technology which supports the crop during establishment and throughout the season, allowing for stronger and more vigorous plant growth. With Goldstrike®, farmers can be assured of a reliable establishment and higher yields of top-quality forage.

### ⊕ Goldstrike® for legumes

Every seed receives a micro-nutrient package and rhizobia inoculant, and Apron® XL fungicide is applied to lucerne and sub clover.

The rhizobia inoculation helps to improve nitrogen fixation and nutrient uptake, while the micronutrient package provides additional essential nutrients for optimal plant growth.

The premium fungicide, applied to lucerne and sub clover, helps to protect the seeds from soil-borne diseases during the critical early stages of plant growth.

### ⊕ Goldstrike® for grasses

Every seed receives a micro-nutrient package using the highest quality coating technology for improved flowability and seed placement while providing additional essential nutrients for optimal growth.

*NB: Goldstrike® for grasses does not contain rhizobia or Apron fungicide*

## XLR8®

XLR8® seed treatment is a film coating of Poncho® Plus insecticide on every seed, designed to give seedlings the best possible start. Poncho® Plus represents a significant advancement in seed treatments, offering broader pest control than any other insecticidal option. Its two powerful active ingredients protect eight crop and pasture types from a range of damaging pests for up to four weeks after sowing.





It all  
starts  
with a  
**Seed**

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New  
**Lucerne  
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Discover our complete lucerne range,  
specifically developed for Australia's  
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# We're here to help you grow

For technical advice, please contact your local Territory Manager

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**Plant with confidence**



**Anything else?  
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