

Forage Sorghum Guide

AlfaGen
SEEDS



Establishment Guarantee

At AlfaGen Seeds, we stand behind the quality of our proprietary seed and always aim for the best outcome for our farmers.

Our Establishment Guarantee is straightforward: if your seed doesn't establish successfully within 30 days, we'll replace it at half the original price. It's a commitment that helps you save on replanting costs and plant with confidence, knowing we're here to support you.

Plant with confidence, backed by the support of AlfaGen Seeds.

Terms and conditions apply

A cow stands in a lush green field at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The cow is dark-colored and has a green tag on its ear. The background shows a line of trees and distant hills.

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.

Fine As

FORAGE SORGHUM
: *Sorghum bicolor* hybrid

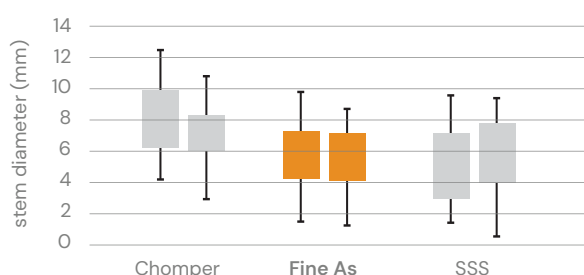


This sorghum x Sudan x Sudan hybrid is a superb choice for hay and grazing, with low prussic acid risk

Sowing rate	
Dryland	6–10kg/ha
High rainfall/irrigation	15–20kg/ha
Seed treatment	
	Enhanced or Standard

- ⊕ Low prussic acid risk
- ⊕ Fine stems, high leaf-to-stem ratio
- ⊕ Large seed for easier establishment
- ⊕ Highly palatable
- ⊕ Quick regrowth for more cuts or grazings per season
- ⊕ Finer stems for faster, more even drying when making hay

Fine As forage sorghum – stem diameter



Fine As is a forage sorghum selected for its fine tillering characteristics, exceptional regrowth and fine stems.

These traits make it a superb choice for hay and grazing, and the low prussic acid risk means you can graze with confidence.

FlexiGraze®

FORAGE SORGHUM
: *Sorghum bicolor* hybrid



Photoperiod sensitive, sorghum x Sudan x Sudan hybrid, ideally suited to hay production and grazing

Sowing rate	
Marginal Dryland	3–5kg/ha
Dryland	8–15kg/ha
High rainfall/irrigation	15–20kg/ha
Seed treatment	
	Enhanced or Standard

- ⊕ Photoperiod sensitivity provides a very long growing period prior to flowering to maximise yield
- ⊕ Low prussic acid risk
- ⊕ Ultra late flowering
- ⊕ Grazing flexibility and hay production

FlexiGraze for hay & grazing

During wet weather or when new cattle spend time in the yards, Kody Kajewski grows forage sorghum on his property near Dalby, Queensland, to sell to the local hay market and feed his own stock.

Despite having the option of irrigation, the summer growing season in 2021 was so wet he didn't require it.

In his selection process, Kody looks for fine stem varieties that produce as much bulk as possible off the paddock. In past summers, Nudan has been the mainstay of his program. Kody allocated a small spot for some FlexiGraze to go in beside.

In late November, planting began with decent early rains leading to a successful start, and wet conditions continued throughout the growing season. The first cut was baled in February with a lucky break in the weather, allowing the 4x4 round bales to be taken off the paddock and stored.

In the first cut yield data, Nudan led, but the second cut later in the season was where things got interesting.

"The FlexiGraze recovered quickly from the cutting and shot away again with lots of tillers," claimed Kody. On the second cut, he found the FlexiGraze had evened up the score. "Best of all the FlexiGraze didn't push out all the heads like the Nudan had," said Kody. The FlexiGraze demonstrated the photoperiod sensitivity trait of this variety.

"Interestingly, we also find the cows will sniff out a bale of FlexiGraze over the Nudan when we put them in the hay feeder. They really demolish it," Kody noted. "We also found this on the piece we grazed where the cattle chewed it right to the ground, even when there was green grass on the edges of the paddock."

“

...the cows will sniff out a bale of FlexiGraze over the Nudan

”

Kody Kajewski

Dalby, QLD

Chomper

FORAGE SORGHUM
: *Sorghum bicolor* hybrid



Mid-maturing sorghum x Sudan hybrid forage

Sowing rate	
Dryland	4–8kg/ha
High rainfall/irrigation	15–20kg/ha
Seed treatment	Enhanced or Standard

- ⊕ Large seed size
- ⊕ Good early season vigour
- ⊕ Quick regrowth after cutting or grazing
- ⊕ High leaf-to-stem ratio

Calibre BMR®

FORAGE SORGHUM
: *Sorghum bicolor* hybrid



Early to mid-maturing brown mid-rib (BMR)
forage sorghum x Sudan hybrid

Sowing rate	
Dryland	4–8kg/ha
High rainfall/irrigation	15–20kg/ha
Seed treatment	Enhanced or Standard

- ⊕ 12 gene BMR
- ⊕ Highly digestible forage
- ⊕ Reduction of lignin improving palatability and digestibility
- ⊕ Increased livestock weight gain

Sweet As

FORAGE SORGHUM
: *Sorghum bicolor* hybrid



High sugar content for high quality stand-over feed
and silage

Sowing rate	
Dryland	4–8kg/ha
High rainfall/irrigation	15–20kg/ha
Seed treatment	Enhanced or Standard

- ⊕ Large seed size for fast emergence and good seedling vigour
- ⊕ Late maturing
- ⊕ High yield potential in late season environments

Chomper prevails in tough Taroom summer

Matt and Luke Welsh of Huntington Charbrays, breeders of Taroom stud cattle, understand the importance of forage sorghum hay in the shed. After the big dry of 2018–19, the La Nina summer of 2020 was looking like it could have been the break they needed to stockpile some bales.

During early November planting rains of 28mm, Luke Welsh planted 8kg of Chomper forage sorghum per hectare in his river paddock. It was time for the rain to come. However, the next six weeks were dry, resulting in a mix of struck plants and some still waiting to germinate.

Eventually, 30mm of rain fell in mid-December, which hit the remaining seed, and then the wait for more rain began. Without any decent in-crop rainfall and February nearly elapsed, Luke was faced with the dilemma of spraying out his best hay-producing paddock and opting for an oats crop. To its credit, Chomper held on and when 75mm followed by 38mm arrived, a flourish of green appeared in his paddock.

To make things worse, the grasshoppers arrived in March. These took to any of the fresh new shoots that were present and certainly reduced the yield of hay dramatically. At the start of May, between showers, the Chomper was cut, raked, and put into 5x4 round bales. "This hay has helped feed the 2021 sale bulls and the palatability of the leaves/stems has been very impressive. We will definitely grow it again," Matt said.

“

This hay has helped feed the 2021 sale bulls and the palatability of the leaves/stems has been very impressive, we will definitely grow it again

”

Matt Welsh

Huntington Charbrays, Taroom, QLD

Sweet As

FORAGE SORGHUM

Sweet As at Jimbour Station

There are many mouths to feed at Jimbour Station on the Darling Downs, with breeders and backgrounding cattle coming and going throughout the year. Grass country is relieved of some of the pressure by the cultivation country.

Summer forage is therefore essential in the summer subtropical grass growing window. During the spring of 2021, station manager Jake Graham allocated 350 acres for Sweet As forage sorghum planting.

However, as was the case for many producers, the wet weather wouldn't allow them to get a planting window until the end of October.

Once planted, the rains arrived, with some of the paddocks having water across them when the crop was young. Even though some areas did "wash out" slightly, favourable summer growing conditions allowed it to get up and running very quickly.

In early January, 800 backgrounders were introduced to the Sweet As when a break in the weather allowed. "The cattle loved it, despite it being past its ideal grazing height, the cattle chewed the stems right down and didn't waste much of the plant," Jake noted. "We were impressed by the initial bulk of growth and the regrowth, which meant we could rest our recently planted pasture paddocks through until April and put valuable kilo's on the steers." For silage, grazing, or standover feed, you can't go wrong with Sweet As.

“

We were impressed by the initial bulk of growth and the regrowth

”

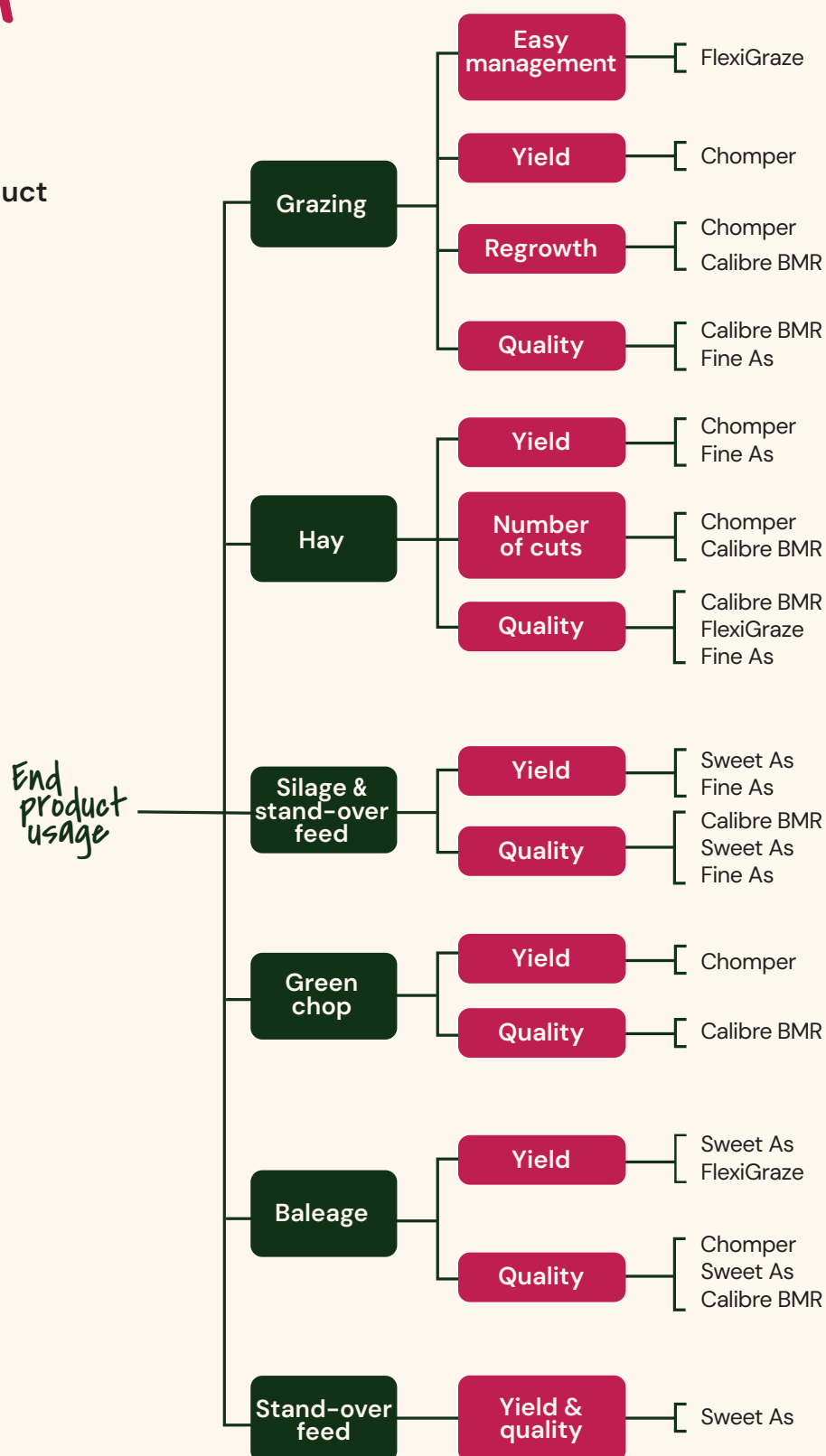
Jake Graham

Jimbour Station, QLD



Forage sorghum options

Find your perfect product



We're here to help you grow

For technical advice, please contact your local Territory Manager

Wide Bay Burnett, South East, Central, Far North QLD & NT

Michael Christensen

Territory Manager

michael.christensen@alfagenseeds.com.au
0430 821 029

Southern & Central QLD

Chris Hoad

Territory Manager

chris.hoad@alfagenseeds.com.au
0407 549 354

Upper Hunter, North West NSW

info@alfagenseeds.com.au
08 8445 1111

North Coast NSW & Hunter Valley

Dan Sweeney

Territory Manager

dan.sweeney@alfagenseeds.com.au
0429 146 817

New England NSW

Gavin Milne

Technical Services Territory Manager

gavin.milne@alfagenseeds.com.au
0447 966 704

Central NSW

Jack Edwards

Northern Regional Manager

jack.edwards@alfagenseeds.com.au
0419 995 418

Southern NSW

Hugh Graham

Southern Regional Manager

hugh.graham@alfagenseeds.com.au
0427 255 292

Central & Northern VIC

Jo Tanner

Territory Manager

jo.tanner@alfagenseeds.com.au

SA, WA & Sunraysia

info@alfagenseeds.com.au
08 8445 1111

Western VIC, S.E SA, Mallee & Wimmera

Samuel Linggood

Territory Manager

sam.linggood@alfagenseeds.com.au
0428 854 391

Tasmania & Gippsland

David Squibb

Production & Territory Manager

david.squibb@alfagenseeds.com.au
0429 999 155

Dean Lombardozi

Australian Sales Manager

dean.lombardozi@alfagenseeds.com.au
0497 499 087

Plant with confidence



Anything else? Get in touch

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