

L56®

LUCERNE
: *Medicago sativa*



Quick Seed Facts



Dormancy

- ⊕ Semi-winter-dormant 5

Sowing rate

- ⊕ Dryland: 4-10kg/ha
- ⊕ High rainfall/irrigation: 18-25kg/ha

Suitability

- ⊕ Hay
- ⊕ Grazing
- ⊕ Silage

Grazing tolerance

Low ————— * ————— High

Seed treatment

- ⊕ Goldstrike XLR8®

L56® is the ultimate dual-purpose lucerne variety for Australian conditions suiting a wide range of soil types and enterprises. With its low and broad crown and excellent pest and disease rating, L56® can produce high-quality hay or a persistent grazing paddock, depending on the grower's needs.

FEATURES & BENEFITS

⊕ Exceptional seedling vigour

Reduced time to first cut, maximising profitability of lucerne stand from an early stage
Increased flexibility in early herbicide application

⊕ Versatile all-rounder

Suitable for a wide range of enterprise systems including livestock grazing and fodder production on both dryland and irrigation, making it a versatile choice for farmers
Allows for flexibility in grazing management

Can withstand frequent or intense grazing, extending the life of the pasture

⊕ Strong pest and disease rating

Forms the basis of a healthier plant stand that provides increased persistence across a range of environments

⊕ Ability to retain leaf under stressful conditions

Increases the production of fodder as well as the plant's ability to recover from either a defoliation event or prolonged periods of dry spells

STRENGTHS

- ⊕ Grazing tolerance
- ⊕ Strong pest and disease rating
- ⊕ Excellent leaf retention
- ⊕ Highly persistent
- ⊕ Benchmark in dual-purpose lucerne varieties

LIMITATIONS

- ▶ Lower levels of winter production when compared to winter active varieties such as L97

WHERE IT GROWS

Rainfall: Dryland typically requires 500mm to 1200mm annually (subtropics) and 250mm to 800mm annually (southern and western Australia). Irrigation is preferred.

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AlfaGen
SEEDS

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Plant with confidence

WHERE IT GROWS CONTINUED ...

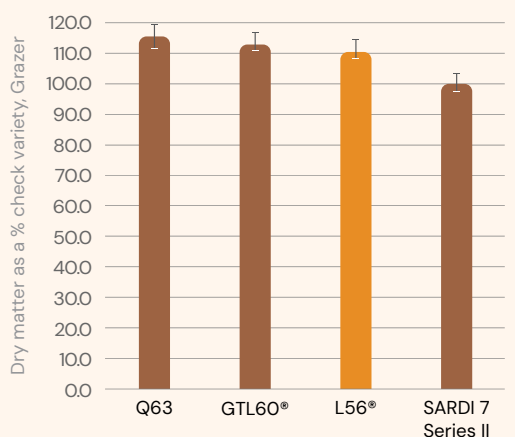
Soils: L56® lucerne requires deep, well drained soils (sands to moderately heavy clays) with a slightly acid to alkaline pH. It is intolerant of high levels of exchangeable aluminium and periods of waterlogging.

Temperature: Optimum temperatures for dry matter production range from 15 to 25°C in the day and 10 to 20°C during the night.

YIELD DATA

Figure 1

Multi site, multi year average dry matter production as a % check variety



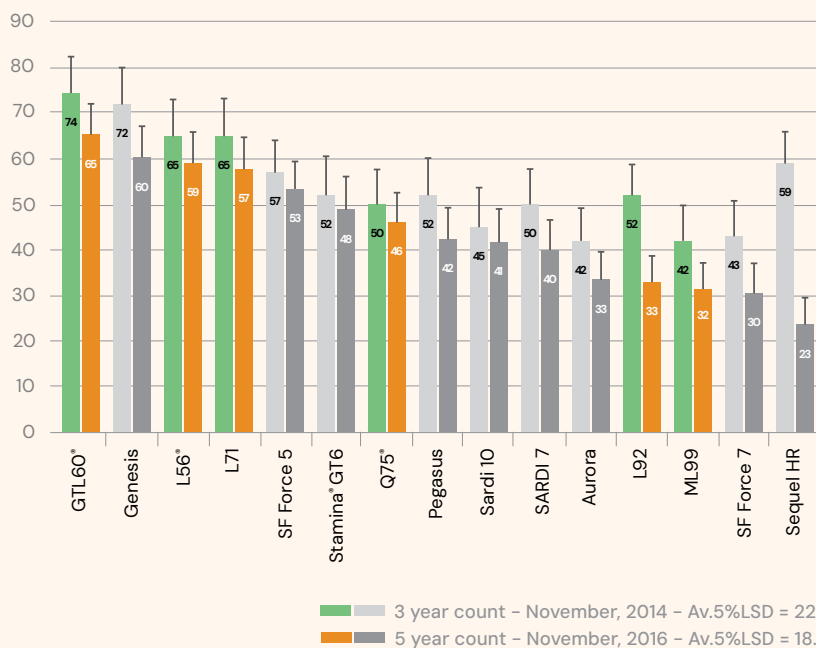
LSD (P=0.05) = 1822.9 CV = 13.5 Mean = 19063.0

Figure 1 shows the dry matter production from trials based at Keith in SA from 2021 – 2024. The long-term forage data demonstrates an increase in forage production of L56®, of up to 10% over the life of the trials when compared with the check variety.

Figure 2

Percentage of residual plants after three and five years of grazing

Lucerne stands are grazed to restrict flowering over a three year period to increase pressure on plants.



ESTABLISHMENT

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

Sowing time: Autumn and early spring. L56® is a semi-winter-dormant variety, it is best to try and avoid late autumn/winter sowing period when temperatures fall, or frost is likely.

Sowing depth: 5mm–15mm, into a prepared soil bed. Good seed to soil contact is required.

Inoculation: Goldstrike® treated seed comes inoculated with the correct rhizobia required to infect the root system for optimum nitrogen fixation by the plant.

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COMPANION SPECIES

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

MANAGEMENT

Maintenance fertiliser: Maintenance fertiliser needs to be applied regularly in irrigated lucerne where large quantities of nutrient are removed in hay. Based on a soil test, nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus, calcium and sulphur levels need to be maintained for optimum dry matter production. Performance optimisation or limitations for your soil type can be discussed with your local agronomist.

Grazing/cutting: Cutting for hay is best done at 10% flower or when the basal shoots are 3–5cm in length. Typically, an irrigated stand of L56[®] has a cutting rotation of 38–42 days during peak hay production periods. Rotational grazing for long term persistence is recommended, whether grown as a pure stand or in mixed swards. Set stocking or continuous grazing into the crown of the plant is detrimental to lifespan of the plant. Performance optimisation or limitations for your enterprise can be discussed with your local agronomist.

Ability to spread: Low. Lucerne is usually cut or grazed before seed matures. If lucerne seed is dropped or spread by livestock, it rarely establishes effectively.

Pest and disease rating:

Spotted alfalfa aphid

HR

Blue green aphid

HR

Pea aphid

HR

Phytophthora root rot

HR

Anthraxnose

HR

Bacterial wilt

HR

Fusarium wilt

HR

Stem nematode

HR

Root knot nematode

HR

Pest & disease rating scale:

High resistance	(HR)	=	> 50%
Resistance	(R)	=	31–50%
Moderate resistance	(MR)	=	15–30%
Low resistance	(LR)	=	7–14%
Susceptible	(S)	=	0–6%

Herbicide susceptibility: Herbicides can be used to take out grasses or broad-leaved weeds selectively or can be used pre-planting or post-planting to tackle weeds at different stages of crop development. Mature lucerne is difficult to remove with herbicide. Follow agronomist recommendations and check labels for the herbicides that are registered for use in lucerne or to remove lucerne.

ANIMAL PRODUCTION

Feeding value: L56[®] lucerne is highly digestible, a reliable source of crude protein and has high levels of metabolisable energy. It is well suited to farmers focused on animal performance, total feed production and pasture persistence.

Palatability: Very palatable.

Livestock disorders/toxicity: Bloat, nitrate poisoning and red gut. To minimise risks of cattle bloat, nitrate poisoning and red gut, do not graze immature/lush lucerne, especially with hungry stock.

For more information on AlfaGen Seeds lucerne varieties, please refer to our Lucerne Advisor.