Fine As

FORAGE SORGHUM
: Sorghum x Sudan x Sudan

Fine As is a mid-maturity forage sorghum hybrid, ideal for multiple high-quality hay cuts or grazings. It delivers exceptional growth rates and fine stems for improved feed quality, while its large seed size supports strong establishment. With excellent stress tolerance and the ability to maintain vegetative growth in tough conditions, Fine As offers consistent performance across cuts and grazings, making it a dependable choice — even in shorter seasonal windows.

Quick Seed Facts

Maturity
- Early-mid

Sowing rate
- Dryland 6-10kg/ha
- High rainfall/irrigation 15-20kg/ha

Seed/kg
- Approx 45,000

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

FEATURES & BENEFITS

Fine stems
Make for faster, more even drying when making hay
Increased hay quality
Improved lifestock acceptance and utilisation

High leaf-to-stem ratio
More leaf, less waste
Higher dry matter yields
Increased palatability which leads to improved liveweight gains

Large seed size
Leads to fast, reliable establishment and strong early growth - ideal for getting to first graze or cut sooner

Low prussic acid risk
Safer grazing over a wider range of growing conditions

STRENGTHS

- Highly palatable
- Quick regrowth
- Large seed size = easier establishment
- Exceptional hay quality
- Excellent grazing utilisation
- Maintains vegetative growth under stress

LIMITATIONS

- Better suited to grazing or hay. For silage, consider Chomper forage sorghum
- Close management of grazing and cutting is required for optimising production

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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AlfaGen® SEEDS

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Plant with confidence

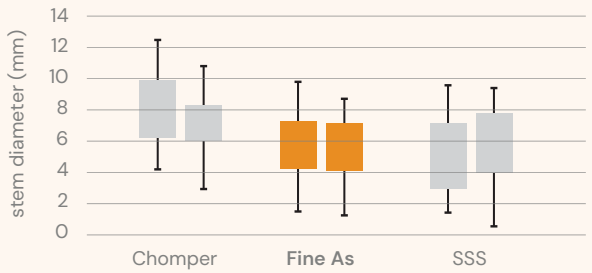
SUITABILITY CHART

Hay	9
Palatability	9
Standability	9
Early seedling vigour	9
Regrowth	9
Ease of management	7
Silage	7

Rating scale:

Not recommended	1
Excellent	9

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.

ESTABLISHMENT

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

Sowing time: Fine As 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: Fine As 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.

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.

AlfaGen SEEDS

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MANAGEMENT CONTINUED...

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 Fine As 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 sulphur-based animal supplements can help to reduce these risks.

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