L70

LUCERNE
: Medicago sativa

Quick Seed Facts

Dormancy
- Winter active
- 7

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

Suitability
- Grazing
- Hay
- Silage

Grazing tolerance

Low ——*—— High

Seed treatment
- Goldstrike XLR8®

L70 lucerne has become a leading winter active lucerne variety in the Australian market and an excellent fit for both grazing and forage production. L70 has a good pest and disease package with superior yields over Aurora, making it a more profitable option.

FEATURES & BENEFITS

- **Improved genetics over Aurora**
  Greater leaf-to-stem ratio, boosting overall yield
- **Cost-effective option**
  An affordable choice without compromising on quality and yield
- **Good pest and disease package**
  Increased production and performance compared with Aurora

STRENGTHS

- Reliable yields under a wide range of conditions
- Economical option
- Selected for dryland conditions

LIMITATIONS

- Lower levels of persistence and production when compared to GTL60®

WHERE IT GROWS

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

Soils: L70 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.

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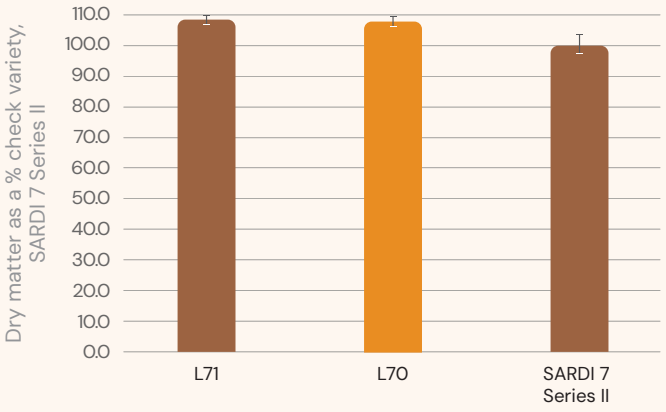
YIELD DATA

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 L70, of up to 6% over the life of the trials when compared with the check variety.

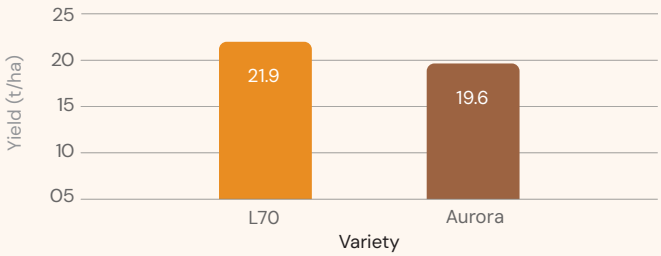
Yield results & pricing comparison

The greater outputs of L70 offer a more competitive return on investment over Aurora. Check out the hay returns comparison below:

	L70	Aurora
Total yield	21.9 t/ha	19.6 t/ha
Hay returns/ha at $400t	$8760/ha	$7840/ha
Extra hay returns	**$920 per hectare, per year**	

AlfaGen Seeds, 2021 - 2024 dry matter production trial, Keith SA

Trial results



Variety	Spotted alfalfa aphid	Blue green aphid	Phytophthora root rot	Anthracnose	Bacterial wilt	Stem nematode
L70	HR	HR	R	R	R	R
Aurora	HR	HR	R	MR	LR	R

	Increased forage quality	Better disease profile	Higher DM production	Increased germination %	Establishment guarantee
L70	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Aurora	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

ESTABLISHMENT

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

Sowing time: Autumn and early spring. L70 is a winter active 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 L70 has a cutting rotation of 33-35 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 ratings:

Spotted alfalfa aphid

HR

Blue green aphid

HR

Pea aphid

NO DATA

Phytophthora root rot

R

Anthracnose

R

Bacterial wilt

R

Fusarium wilt

NO DATA

Stem nematode

R

Root knot nematode

NO DATA

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 for post emergence and pre-emergence of broadleaf and grass control are available. Consult your local agronomist for herbicide options. Always check label before herbicide use. Best sown into weed-free paddocks.

ANIMAL PRODUCTION

Feeding value: L70 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.

AlfaGen SEEDS

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