Spring Forage Max

SOWSMART® BLEND

Pasture grazing system blend

Blend breakdown

- 60% **Subzero** hybrid forage brassica XLR8®
- 40% **Compass** chicory

Quick Seed Facts

Lifespan
8-18 months

Time to first grazing
8-12 weeks

Minimum rainfall
300mm

Sowing rate
4-8kg/ha

Suitability
Ideal for long-season production and high liveweight gains in livestock enterprises

SOWsmart® Spring Forage Max is an excellent-quality, high-production blend, designed to maximise animal performance. Ideal for finishing prime lambs, calves or steers, it is a highly adaptable blend suited to a wide range of climatic conditions, soil types and management styles.

FEATURES & BENEFITS

- **Rapid establishment in warm soils**
  Earlier first grazing, allowing stock to be introduced sooner than longer maturing forage options
- **Excellent regrowth after grazing**
  Provides multiple high-quality grazing opportunities
- **Flexibility with sowing windows**
  Allows you to make the most of rainfall opportunities when soil temperatures are above the minimum threshold
- **Addition of Compass chicory provides tolerance to insects that damage brassica crops**
  Less insect pressure on crop = more feed for livestock

STRENGTHS

- High liveweight gain potential, with low bloat risk
- Rapid establishment and high first year productivity
- Fast regrowth
- Adapted to a range of soil types
- Deep root system
- Retains leaf better than lucerne in dry conditions
- Moderate to high frost tolerance

LIMITATIONS

- Subzero hybrid forage brassica can be susceptible to moth and caterpillar damage
- Cattle require fibre supplementation
- Not suitable for hay production
- Compass chicory can have poor growth rates at low soil temperatures
- Registered herbicide options are limited

WHERE IT GROWS

Rainfall: SOWsmart® Spring Forage Max is adapted to a wide variety of climates, from summer dominant to winter dominant rainfall areas, receiving minimum 300mm annual rainfall. It requires some rain or irrigation to perform best if grown over summer.

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Plant with confidence

WHERE IT GROWS CONTINUED...

Soils: The benefits of SOWsmart® Spring Forage Max will be maximised in paddocks with good soil fertility and depth. Avoid shallow soils and waterlogged areas. A soil test should be taken to determine soil acidity and fertility for nutrient and lime requirements. In highly acidic soils (pH below 4.5 (CaCl2)), lime should be applied several weeks before sowing brassicas and chicory.

Temperature: Ideal sowing conditions are when the soil temperature is 10°C and rising.

ESTABLISHMENT

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

Sowing time: Sow when soil temperatures are at least 10-12°C, ideally in early to mid-autumn or early spring. Pastures may be slow to establish if soil temperatures drop below 8°C. Consult your local agronomist or Territory Manager for your ideal sowing time.

MANAGEMENT

Maintenance fertiliser: SOWsmart® Spring Forage Max is very responsive to fertiliser applications. Good nutrition is required to maximise production through optimising yield and forage quality, particularly where multiple grazings of the crop is required.

Grazing/cutting: When planted in optimal conditions, Subzero hybrid forage brassica will reach grazing maturity 8-12 weeks after sowing, which should coincide with establishment of Compass chicory. Grazing should only begin once the Subzero hybrid forage brassica plants have fully matured, as indicated by the leaves turning a purple, reddish, or bronze colour.

Subzero demonstrates excellent regrowth after grazing, enabling multiple grazings throughout the season.

SOWsmart® Spring Forage Max has the potential to make good quality silage but does not make good hay, as Compass chicory leaves are brittle and break up on drying.

Major pests: Seedlings are very susceptible to insect damage especially by earth mites, slugs and lucerne flea. Other pests such as cabbage white butterfly, diamond back moth, cutworms, cabbage centre grub and wingless grasshoppers can reduce yield by eating leaves. Regular monitoring is recommended, please consult your local agronomist.

Major diseases: Subzero hybrid forage brassica may be susceptible to blackleg (*Leptosphaeria maculans*), sclerotinia rot (*Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*), clubroot (*Plasmodiophora brassicae*) and beet western yellows virus. Compass chicory may be susceptible to charcoal rot and sclerotinia rot.

Herbicide susceptibility: Consult your local agronomist for herbicide options. Susceptible to many broadleaf herbicides. Always check label before herbicide use. Best sown into weed-free pastures.

ANIMAL PRODUCTION

Feed value: SOWsmart® Spring Forage Max has a good balance between crude protein, energy and minerals resulting in rapid passage through the gut and very high feed value. However, sometimes the diet may lack sufficient fibre causing scouring. Dry matter digestibility ranges from 66-80%, from 9-12MJ ME/kg and from 14-30% CP.

Palatability: Highly palatable in its vegetative state.

Production potential: Very valuable for finishing livestock and promoting weight gain. Capable of producing high growth rates in lambs (290g/day), calves (900g/day) and steers (2kg+/day). Also useful for flushing ewes to promote ovulation. High dry matter yields are possible over an 8-18 month period.

Livestock disorders/toxicity: Incorrect management of Subzero can cause photosensitisation, nitrate poisoning, goitre (*enlarged thyroid*), kale anaemia (*red water*), pulpy kidney and bloat. Some varieties of chicory have high levels of lactucin, which causes milk taint when chicory is fed to dairy cows, particularly where it forms more than 50% of the diet and is grazed too soon before milking. It is recommended that animals have a current vaccine program to assist in the prevention of clostridial diseases such as pulpy kidney etc.

Consultation with a local veterinarian or animal health professional is advised.

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