

PLANTING GUIDE FOR TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL PASTURES

TROPICAL GRASSES

Variety	Planting Rate Bare seed (kg/ha)	Planting Rate Betaflow coated seed (kg/ha)	Frost Tolerance	Drought Tolerance	Water Logging	Minimum Rainfall (mm)	Soil Preferences	Comments
Bambatsi Panic <i>Panicum coloratum</i>	2-4	4-6	Good	Very Good	Very Good	600	Self mulching heavy clay soils in subtropics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The outstanding grass for the heavy soils of the grain belt. • Moderate salt tolerance. • Very waterlogging tolerant. • Seed is readily available.
Buffel grass Biloela, American, Gayndah <i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i>	1-4	3-8	Fair	Very Good	Poor	300	Prefers light to medium texture but will grow on friable clays in inland subtropics and tropics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardy ,productive, widely naturalised • Beware of potential oxaiate problems • Tall cultivars best on fertile soils, shorter cultivars adapted to poorer soils
Creeping bluegrass (<i>Bothriochloa inscupta</i>) cvv. Bisset, Hatch	1-4	3-8	Fair	Fair	Poor	650	Loamy, clay-loam and light clay soils in subtropics and tropics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well adapted to subcoastal and some inland forest soils. • Will invade spear grass. • Bisset is a better coloniser than Hatch.
Digit grass (<i>Digitaria eriantha</i> ssp.	1-3	2-6	Poor	Very Good	Poor	550	Light textured sandy, loamy and clay loam soils in subtropics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A hardy grass, widely adapted to infertile soils. • Excellent drought tolerance.

<i>eriantha</i>) cv. Premier									<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent spring growth. • Some salt tolerance.
Floren bluegrass (<i>Dichanthium aristatum</i>) cv. Floren	2-3	3-6	Fair	Fair	Very Good	625	Basaltic clays and heavy alluvial soils in subtropics and tropics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used to re-grass flood plains colonised by lippia. • Colonises heavy soils • Seed supply and demand are increasing. 	
Guinea grass or Hamil grass (<i>Panicum maximum</i>) cvv. Hamil, Common	2-6	4-8	Poor	Good	Poor	1000	Fertile loamy soils in tropics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A most important grass for the wet tropics. • Responds well to N. 	
Humidicola or koronivia grass (<i>Urochloa humidicola</i>) cv. Tully	2-4	3-6	Poor	Fair	Good	1000	Wide range of soils in tropics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapted to wetter, lower areas than signal grass • Shorter growing season than signal grass. • Seed, which is freely available, is dormant for 6-12 months after harvest. 	
Indian bluegrass or Indian couch (<i>Bothriochloa pertusa</i>) cvv. Bowen, Keppel, Medway, Dawson	1-2	2-6	Fair	Good	Poor	500	Wide range of soils in tropics and to a lesser extent the subtropics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardy, free seeding grass. • Has spread widely through spear grass lands in north Queensland. • Seed light, fluffy, hard to harvest and sow. 	
Kikuyu (<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>) cvv. Whittet, Noonan)	1-2	–	Good	Fair	Good	700	Red basaltic loams, friable basaltic clays in subtropics and tropics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whittet does best on fertile soils in cool moist areas. • Noonan is better on lower slopes. • Has a high fertility requirement. 	

Panic (<i>Panicum maximum</i>) cvv. Petrie (green panic) and Gatton (Gatton panic)	1-4	2-7	Fair	Fair	Poor	650	Fertile, well drained clayey and loamy soils in subtropics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green panic is outstanding on fertile vine-scrub soils. • It is shade tolerant.. • Gatton panic is adapted to less fertile, friable clay and loamy soils. • Seed that is freely available is dormant for a few months after harvest.
Paspalum (<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>) cv. Common	2-4	3-7	Good	Fair	Very Good	800	Alluvial flats that receive runoff or irrigation in subtropics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grows well on lower slopes that receive runoff in drier rainfall areas. • Good early spring growth. • Demand limited; seed is available from southern Australia.
Purple Pigeon grass (<i>Setaria incrassata</i>) cv. Inverell	2-4	3-7	Fair	Good	Poor	600	Heavy self-mulching clay soils in subtropics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easiest grass to establish on the heavy clay soils of the grain belt. • Not suited to coastal areas. • Seed, which is readily available, is dormant for 6-9 months after harvest.
Rhodes grass (<i>Chloris gayana</i>) cvv. Katambora, Callide, Finecut, Topcut, Nemkat, Pioneer	1-3	2-6	Fair	Fair	Poor	650	Versatile – from light sandy soils to medium clays In subtropics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finecut and Katambora are hardy cultivars. • Callide is more palatable, but requires higher rainfall. • Moderate salt tolerance. • Finecut preferred for hay.
Sabi grass	1-4	2-7	Poor	Good	Poor	500	Versatile –loams to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Useful in dry tropics.

TROPICAL LEGUMES

Variety	Planting Rate Bare seed (kg/ha)	Planting Rate Betaflow coated seed (kg/ha)	Frost Tolerance	Drought Tolerance	Water Logging	Minimum Rainfall (mm)	Soil Preferences	Comments
Burgundy bean (<i>Macroptilium bracteatum</i>) cvv. Juanita and Cadarga	5-10		Poor	Good	Fair	625	Loams to heavy clays in subtropics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term, perennial, ley species for the grain belt. • Good drought tolerance on a range of soils. • Seed is moderately hard and supplies are small but increasing.
Butterfly pea (<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>) cv. Milgarra	5-10		Poor	Good	Fair	700	Heavy clays and loams in tropics, and in the subtropics north of the Great Divide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful perennial ley legume for heavy clay soils in central Qld. • Avoid heavy grazing in wet season.
Caribbean stylo (<i>Stylosanthes hamata</i>) cvv. Verano, Amiga	2-4	3-7	Poor	Good	Poor	600	Infertile, well drained sandy soils of low fertility in tropics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-lived perennial for the inland tropics. • Amiga is drought tolerant. • Species is not as drought tolerant as shrubby stylo. • Seed available, high levels of hard seed.
Centurion (<i>Centrosema pascuorum</i>) cvv. Cavalcade, Bundey	2-4		Poor	Good	Very Good	800	Wide range of soils in tropics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer annual for the monsoonal tropics. • Heat loving, tolerates a long dry season.

Fine stem stylo (<i>Stylosanthes hippocampoides</i>) cv. Oxley	2-4	3-7	Good	Good	Poor	700	Deep, sandy soils in subtropics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-regenerating annual, for deep sandy soils. • Stands heavy grazing, frost, drought and fire well.
Leucaena (<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>) cvv. Peruvian, Cunningham and Taramba	4-6		Fair	Good	Poor	750	Well drained, alkaline, clay or clay-loam soils in tropics or subtropics north of the Great Divide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding tropical browse tree for fertile soils. • Does not compete with weeds as a seedling. • Manage correctly to avoid it spreading. • Affected by psyllid in coastal environments.
Round-leafed cassia (<i>Chamaecrista rotundifolia</i>) cv. Wynn	1-2	2-5	Poor	Good	Poor	625	Well drained soils of low to moderate fertility in subtropics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perennial, self-regenerating form seed. • Hardy and widely adapted. • Stands heavy grazing.
Shrubby stylo (<i>Stylosanthes scabra</i>) cvv. Seca, Siran	1-3	2-5	Poor	Very Good	Fair to Good	500	Sandy-loams to light clays in tropics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perennial, slow to establish. • Very hardy and tolerant of dry conditions. • Easy to manage, persistent. • Siran has most anthracnose resistance. • Seed is readily available, high levels of hard seed.
Siratro (<i>Macroptilium atropurpureum</i>) cvv. Aztec	1-4	2-6	Poor	Good	Fair	650	Sandy loams to heavy clays in subtropics and tropics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twining perennial. • Needs late summer spelling for best persistence. • Aztec has greater rust resistance

