

Grow More, Graze More, Gain More Profitable Pasture Workshop

Pursehouse Rural in conjunction with Incitec Pivot will be running a pasture management course in 2007. The aim of the Grow More, Graze More, Gain More (GM 3) course is to link business planning and management skills with pasture management to improve farm outcomes. The five workshops will help participants plan for a profitable future, while giving them the management skills needed to grow and utilise quality pastures. This will lead to an increase in productivity.



2005 GM 3 group in Coonabarabran looking at soil structural properties.

Richard Oates, "Eloura" Purlough completed the course facilitated by Pursehouse Rural Coonabarabran in 2005.

"I found the GM3 course well worth the time and investment. It helped quantify many management decisions and also challenge some long held strategies. The grazing management tools have made a difference during the recent dry times and I am hoping that in more plentiful times, the resource management skills gained from GM3 will be well worth the investment."

Incitec pivot, along with agricultural and agribusiness consultants present the course once a month for five months. Your local Pursehouse Rural Agronomist will act as a mentor to help you move through the modules between each workshop. The workshops will cover issues like:

- Improving soil health and pasture composition to increase pasture growth and quality.
- Evaluating farm resources to maximize potential.
- Improving grazing management to achieve better pasture quality, utilization, performance and persistence.
- Calculating paddock yields and stocking rates to optimize production.
- Evaluating success by calculating enterprise return more accurately.
- Developing and implementing a business plan to maximize profitability.



For more information contact your local Pursehouse Rural Agronomist.

January Weather Summary

visit http://www.pursehouserural.com.au/services/weather_station.html

Location	Average Temp (°C)	High Temp (°C)	Low Temp (°C)	Number of Days > 35°C	Rain mm	Average Wind Speed Km/h	High Wind Speed Km/h	Dominant Wind Direction
Cattle Lane, Willow Tree	24.9	40.2	10.3	10	27.6	11.0	78.9	S
"Murlow", Quirindi	25.7	38.9	9.9	10	47.6	7.3	48.3	S
"Dow Site", Breeza	26.1	38.8	9.3	12	38.2	10.3	54.7	SSE

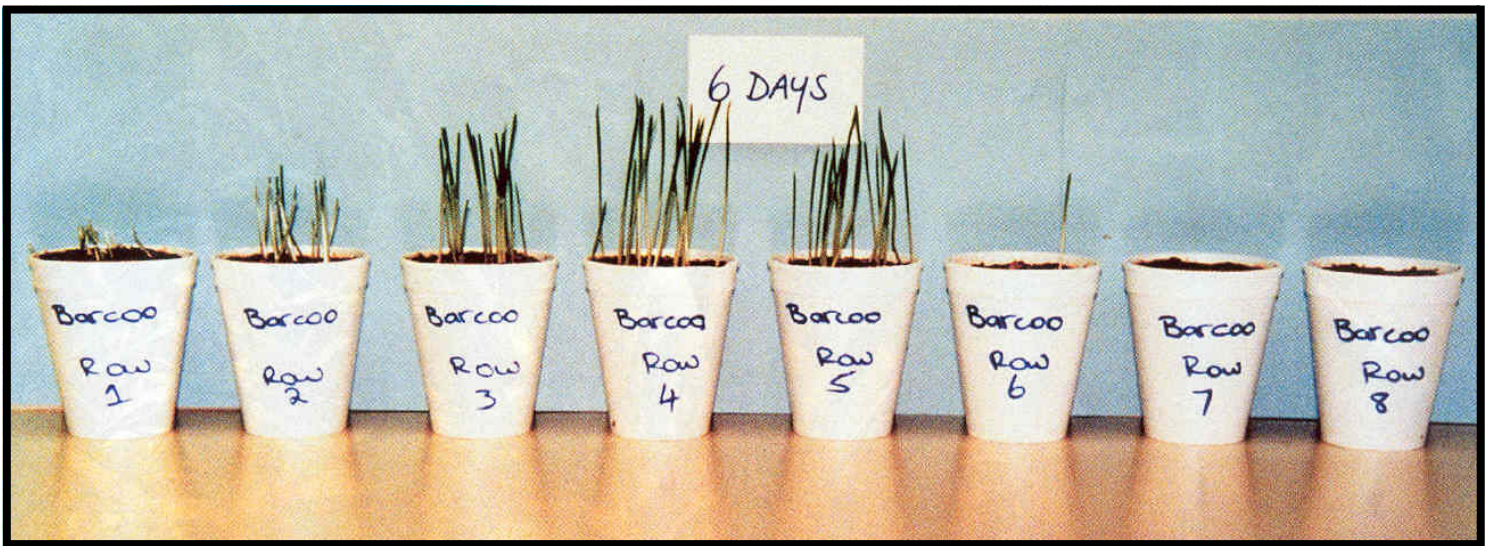
THINKING OF EARLY OATS?

Given the feed situation, or lack of it in most of the grazing paddocks around the region, most graziers will be keen to take advantage of any sort of break in the season as soon as they possibly can. This poses the age old question "How early can I sow oats?".

With a wide range of oat varieties available, it is possible to choose a variety suitable for sowing in the beginning of autumn. However, not all varieties can be sown this early and are suitable for sowing as late as early winter. Early sowing of varieties that are leaf rust susceptible should be avoided, as should sowing varieties that are sensitive to warm soil temperatures.

Soil temperature at sowing time is very important. If the soil temperature is too warm, germination will be delayed and poor plant establishment may result. Sensitivity to soil temperatures does vary between varieties but in general the ideal soil temperature for germination and establishment of oats is 15-25°C. Some varieties can be successfully sown into soil above 25°C, but it is important to find out and not just assume it will be ok.

The photo below shows the result from a laboratory germination test using Barcoo. This test shows that sowing when the soil temperature is just a few degrees above the ideal range can severely reduce germination.



This photo shows the result from a laboratory test, observing the effect of soil temperature on germination of Barcoo. The photo was taken six days after sowing. The cups were held at a constant temperature as follows: -
Row 1 at 18°C; Row 2 at 20°C; Row 3 at 23°C; Row 4 at 25°C; Row 5 at 27°C;
Row 6 at 30°C; Row 7 at 33°C and Row 8 at 35°C

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Boggabri

7 Caloola Road, Boggabri

Ph: (02) 6743 4303

Fax: (02) 6743 4373

Mobile: 0428 416 149

Branch Manager: Robert Tumbers

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