

Success with Summer Pastures

The area of tropical/sub-tropical grasses is greatly increasing through out our region. Tropical grasses grow throughout spring, summer and into autumn, becoming dormant in winter. Many of these grasses grow in a wide range of soil types, from deep clays, to shallow sands.

Establishment is the key to a successful pasture:

- A paddock that is relatively weed free should be selected. It is often worth growing oats for 1 to 2 years before sowing a tropical pasture to clean up summer weeds during fallow.
- Species selection is vitally important. Although many tropical grasses grow in a wide range of conditions, some are better suited to certain situations. Your Pursehouse Rural agronomist will be able to help you select the species that are best for your paddock.
- Sowing should ideally occur in spring. It is important not to sow early as a cold snap often follows opening spring rains. Soil temperature should be 16°C or higher at 8am for more than 3 days. In this area mid October is the preferred sowing time. Autumn sowing often leads to poor establishment. When seeds germinate on the opening spring rains, weeds germinate, creating competition.
- Sowing depth is one of the main reasons establishment fails. The seed should be placed less than 10mm below the soil. Good seed to soil contact should also be achieved.
- The paddock should not be grazed before the plant has developed its secondary roots. Ideally grazing should occur after the plant has set seed, as roots should be fully developed.

It is good practice to sow grasses without a broadleaf component. This will enable you to spray any broadleaf weeds that may emerge. Legumes and herbs can be drilled or spread in autumn the following year.



For more information on tropical grasses or any pasture topic, contact your local Purse- Premier Digit and Bambatsi Panic at "Cheriton", west of Coonabarabran

Notice to All Veggie Growers

The cadmium content of pasture grades of Incitec Pivot single superphosphate (including SuPerfect) means that these fertilisers must not knowingly be used as the sole source of phosphorus in blends intended for use in vegetable crops.

Incitec Pivot, along with other member companies of the Fertiliser Industry Federation of Australia (FIFA), has committed to encouraging the use of low-cadmium fertilisers in those areas and farm sectors that have an existing or potential cadmium problem. Vegetable crops, in particular, root and tuber crops such as carrots and potatoes, and leafy vegetables such as silverbeet, have been identified as high risk.

Erik's Humour...

A chicken is playing in a football match and scores 2 goals. "You're very good" says the ref. "Do you train hard?" "Yes", replies the chicken, "but it's not easy, I'm a lawyer so I don't get much free time".

Hearing this, the ref pulls out the red card and orders the chicken off the field. "What's the matter" says the chicken. The ref replies....."Professional Fowl".

Regulator Suspends Registration of High Volatile Forms of 2,4-D

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has on the 3rd of October suspended the registration of high volatile (short chain) Ester forms of the herbicide 2,4-D because of the risk these chemicals pose in relation to off-target damage to the environment and crops.

During the period of suspension new directions for use apply to all products containing 2,4-D Ethyl, Butyl and Isobutyl Esters.

These directions include:

- the creation of a seasonal no-spray window (only allowing use between 1 May and 31 August);
- removing certain uses (in sugar cane, aquatic applications, on rights-of-way and as a harvest aid and salvage spray in cereal crops);

- limiting maximum application rates to 800g 2,4-D active equivalents per hectare;
- specifying buffer zones; and
- record keeping requirements.

These new directions for use will also apply to existing products on farm. Chemical manufacturers will be required to ensure that the new instructions are affixed to existing products currently in the supply chain and that all users who have purchased products are provided with the new instructions.

The APVMA will consider permits for use of the product during the non-spray window in specific circumstances. Such permits will be contingent on relevant State and Territory authority assurance that risks to the environment and off-target crops are minimal and can be managed.

Even when applied correctly, the chemicals

can evaporate several hours or days after application. The vapour can migrate tens of kilometres in the wind in an unpredictable manner and can settle on whatever is in its path.

The new requirements will remain in place until new data are generated which demonstrate that the environmental risks are acceptable, or that more stringent regulatory action is required. The first package of this data is due in February 2007.

The 2,4-D review was triggered by concerns over toxicological, occupational health and safety and environmental issues (including impacts on waterways, non-target animals and plants). The current action was specifically based on environmental concerns.

Documentation relating to the 2,4-D review and media backgrounders can be found at:

<http://www.apvma.gov.au/chemrev/2,4-D.shtml> or www.pursehouserural.com.au



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October 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	17.6	33.4	2.9	0	15.4	11.3	64.4	SSE
'Murlow', Quirindi	17.5	33.7	1.8	0	12	10.6	80.5	SSE
'Dow Site', Breeza	18.8	34.3	4.6	0	18.4	8.5	56.3	SSE