




Scientific Name


 *Medicago sativa*

Seed Size


 440,000 – 500,000 seeds per kg

Source: Pasture varieties used in NSW
2006-2007, Bev Zurbo, 2006

Sowing Rate

 6 – 15 kg/ha (dryland)
15 – 30 kg/ha (Irrigation)

Blend Rate

 1 – 4 kg/ha

Activity

 Highly Winter Active – 9

Key Features


- Ideal for mixed grazing and hay production enterprises
- Highly persistent in dryland and irrigation
- Superior cold and heat tolerance
- Rapid regrowth after grazing and cutting
- Well suited to hay production systems
- Significantly better than usual leaf retention when hay making

Plant Characteristics

- Erect growth habit
- Excellent mature leaf:stem ratio
- Highly resistant to aphids

Where can I grow it?

- Bred to suit all Australian lucerne growing areas from the subtropics to dryland or irrigation conditions
- Ideally suited to irrigation
- Tolerates frost and cold winters

 *Silverado 9 is a premium quality lucerne, with built-in, broad spectrum disease and pest resistance that enhance its forage quality and performance.*

Product Information

Soil Type

Grows well on a wide range of well drained soils including deep loams, sands, loam over gravel or clay but does not produce as well on shallow soil types. Silverado 9 has improved acid soil tolerance although it is highly recommended to lime prior to sowing. All lucernes are sensitive to high aluminium levels common in low pH soils. This reduces root development and hence plant productivity.

Fertility

Mature Silverado 9 will benefit from annual phosphorus and potassium applications, especially if removing hay/silage from the paddock.



Sowing

Lucerne can be established successfully whether it is sown in autumn, winter or spring. The time of sowing normally depends on the rainfall and climate of the region. Autumn establishment is better suited to winter active or highly winter-active varieties as they have better frost tolerance. Delayed sowing allows the opportunity to improve weed control and seedbed preparation. For spring established lucerne aim to sow mid August onwards as the soil temperature begins to increase and daylight increases.

Sow at 6-15kg/ha (dryland) or 15-30 kg/ha (irrigation) alone or 1-4kg/ha when a component of a pasture blend. Sow at approximately 1cm depth. Lucerne seed must be inoculated with the AL strain of rhizobium to ensure effective nodulation and prompt establishment. Do not sow into an 'old' lucerne stand. Allow a minimum of one year between stands to create an effective disease break.

Product Information

Disease and Pest Management

Monitor regularly during emergence for insect damage from pests such as RLEM, aphids and lucerne flea and spray if required. Silverado 9 is highly resistant to spotted, blue-green and pea aphid species. It also has good levels of resistance to nematodes (eg highly resistant to root-knot, resistant to rootlesion and moderately resistant to stem nematode).

Phytophthora root rot, Anthracnose and Fusarium crown rot can severely damage lucerne however Silverado 9 has high resistance levels to these diseases.

Weed Control

Spray out any old pasture/crops with glyphosate prior to sowing but speak to your UMS agronomist about the correct rate to use depending on the size of weeds present. Also consider using a pre-emergent herbicide such as trifluralin. Weed control in young lucerne can be challenging due to its slow seedling growth. Most broad-leaf herbicides cannot be applied until the lucerne is at the third



trifoliate leaf stage. Weeds need to be treated when small. Once a stand is established (>1 year) there are more winter cleaning options and herbicide efficacy is improved

Grazing

Allow the stand to reach approximately 20cm high and ensure that the plants cannot be pulled out prior to grazing. Allow lucerne to flower in its first year so the plant can strengthen its crown and taproot.

Monitor the first grazing carefully and remove stock before they begin to graze near the crown of the plant. Rotational grazing (or strip

grazing) is essential for productivity and longevity of the stand. Lucerne can withstand set stocking during spring provided sufficient moisture is available. Avoid damaging the crown of the lucerne plant.

Feed Quality

Silverado 9 is highly regarded due to its ability to produce top quality, out-of-season feed. It has a high leaf:stem ratio, excellent palatability and digestibility. Silverado 9 has good levels of metabolisable energy and is a reliable source of crude protein.

Animal Health

Bloat is the most common animal health issue, especially in cattle. Ensure roughage (hay/straw) is available. To optimise livestock weight gain and health, ensure livestock are vaccinated and drenched. To prevent nutritional problems, make gradual diet changes when introducing hungry stock to lush pastures. Contact an UMS agronomist for more information.