DLF Seeds

SEEDS & SCIENCE

# TROPICAL GUIDE

2026

## High quality, tropical & subtropical seed varieties for the grazing animal, hay & silage

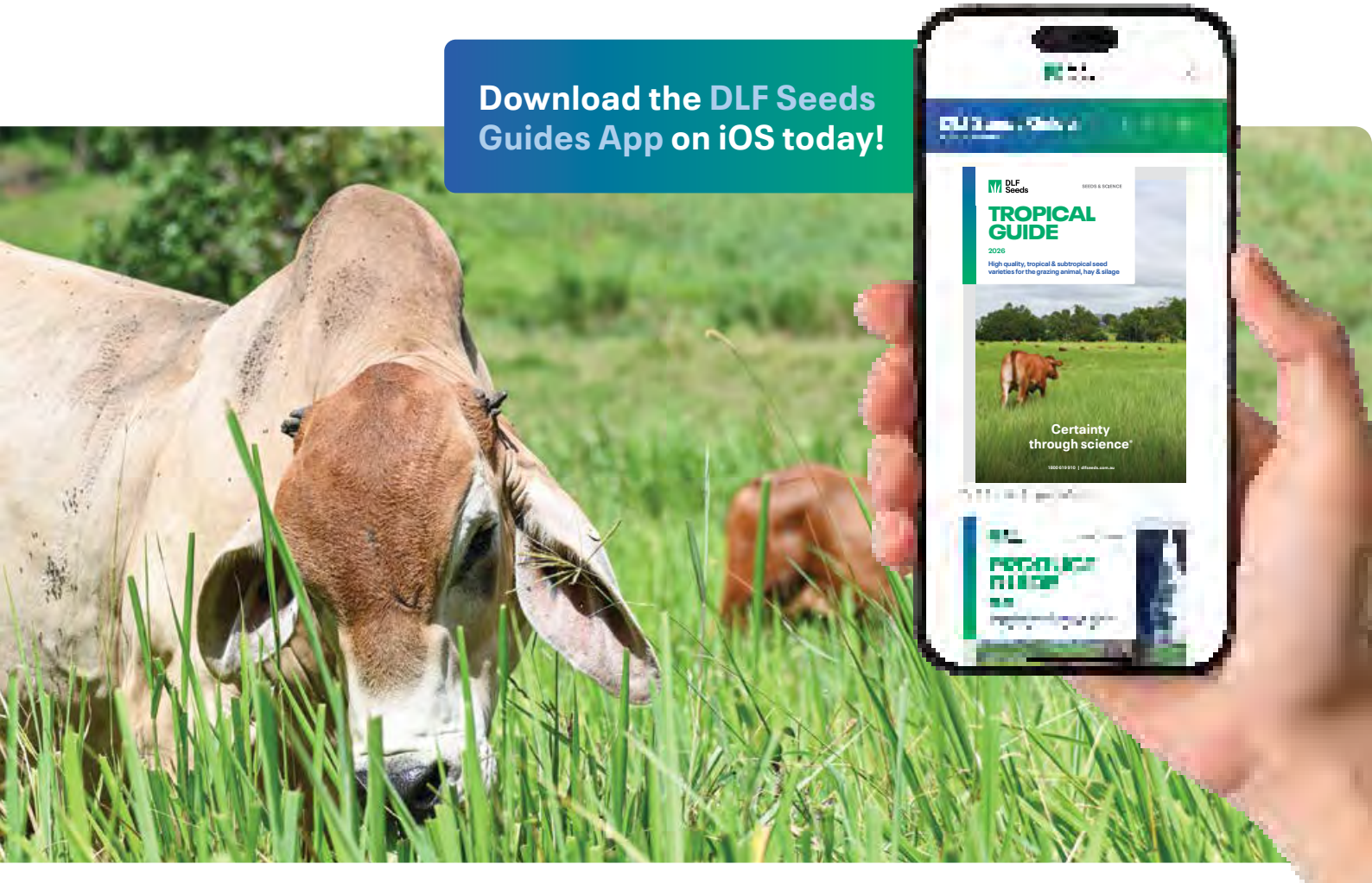


**Certainty through science®**

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# CONTENTS


| | |
|---|---|
| **Introduction** | 3 |
| DLF Seeds and where we came from | 4 |
| **Tropical & Subtropical Grasses** | 5 |
| Tropical & Subtropical Pasture Management | 11 |
| **Legumes** | 12 |
| Gerry's guide to pasture grass seed establishment | 17 |
| **Mixes & Blends** | 20 |
| MAXImiser® Range | 21 |
| Profit and sustainability in Northern QLD | 22 |
| **Seed Treatments & Enhancements** | 24 |
| Envirogro® seed treatment & enhancement | 25 |
| Superstrike® seed treatment | 26 |

# INTRODUCTION

## Certainty through science®

For over 85 years, DLF Seeds have been working to develop and deliver, to Australian farmers and agronomists, **proven seed varieties designed to generate the best possible outcomes for their farms** and the wider agricultural community.

We make it our business to understand the local challenges at every level. **We utilise our global capabilities to solve problems in a practical and sustainable manner, underpinned by science, knowledge and local expertise.**

**At DLF Seeds we stand by our products, and we stand by our farmers and their communities, through the twists and turns, and the ups and downs.** We too are driven by the pursuit of increased performance, sustainability and the sense of pride, satisfaction, and success that comes when it all works.

In an environment that can be full of uncertainty; having something you can rely on is worth sticking with. You can be certain that **DLF Seeds will help you solve the problems of today and overcome the challenges of tomorrow.**

**Sow with DLF Seeds today:**
**Available from your local rural retailer.**



**SCAN ME**
**DLF Seeds video "About us"**

# DLF SEEDS AND WHERE WE CAME FROM

## As the new name behind the names you knew, DLF Seeds provides the complete range of seed varieties previously available from PGG Wrightson Seeds, AusWest and Stephen Pasture Seeds.

### Delivering certainty through science™

DLF Seeds through its global and local relationships, works with primary research partners including the **CSIRO, University of Western Australia (UWA) and the University of New England (UNE) in Australia and AgResearch and Plant and Food Research in New Zealand.** These relationships enable us to take advantage of this research and incorporate it into our products to perform in the Australian environment.

### What we offer

**As the largest proprietary forage seed company in Australia, DLF Seeds have provided Australian farmers with high quality, innovative forage seed varieties backed by science, global knowledge and local expertise for over 85 years.**

- A national network of local Sales Agronomists who understand the local environment and farm systems servicing every state and territory.
- Global knowledge and local thinking with a proven track record of supplying the agricultural community with **locally based service and advice for 85 years.**
- Provides seed varieties previously available from South Edge Seeds, PGG Wrightson Seeds, AusWest and Stephen Pasture Seeds.
- A leading role in the development of improved pasture plant genetics in this country, with a focus on grazing, animal health, farm productivity, sustainability and profitability, farm system fit and agronomy advice.
- Proprietary varieties that go through vigorous testing in Australian conditions and the incorporation of animal grazing trials and the results into plant breeding.
- Quality seed treatments formulated for specific varieties and environments including Envirogro™ and Superstrike®.
- Comprehensive trial sites across various Australian climates.
- **Leading expertise in endophytes – with over 25 years' of experience.**

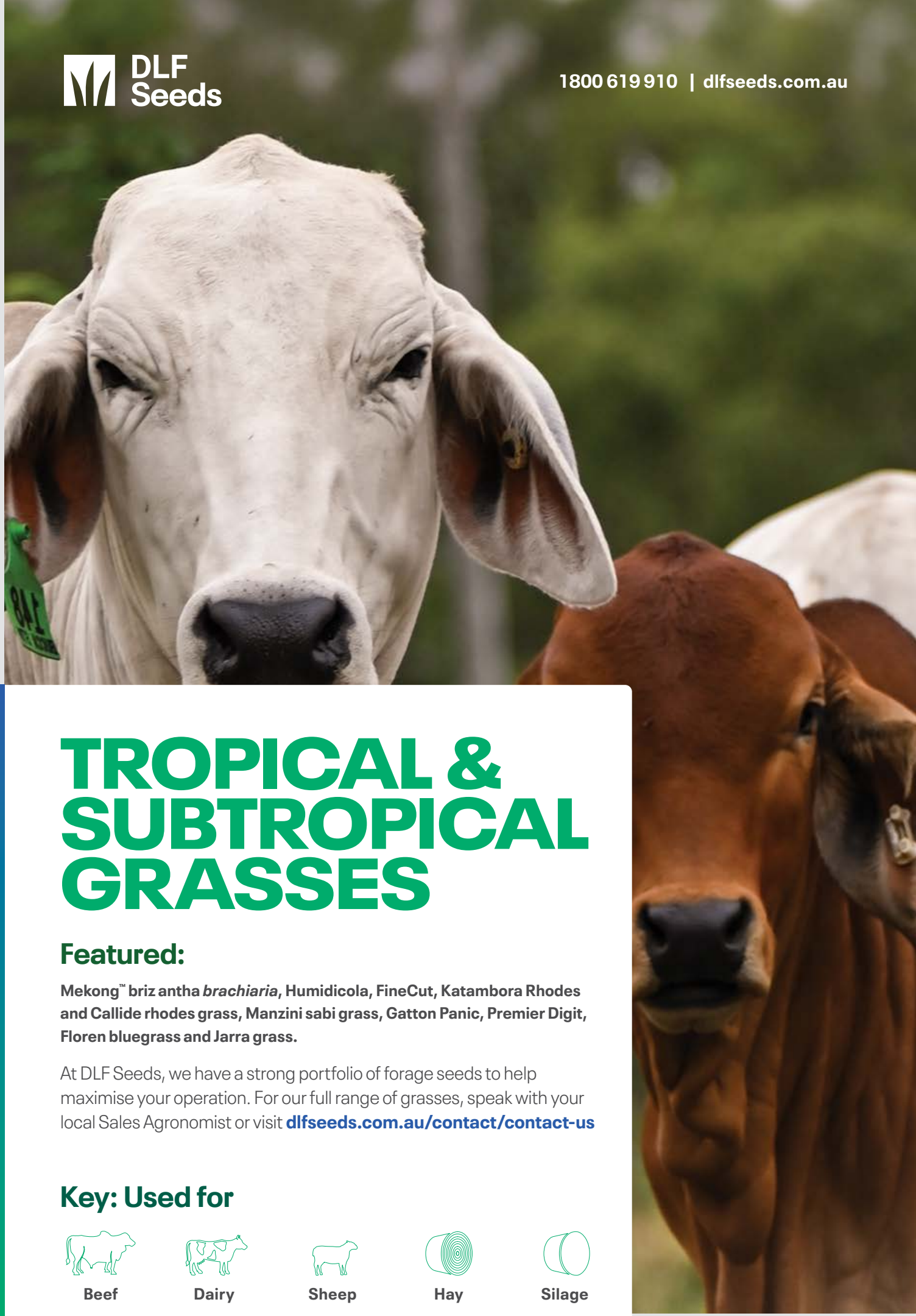


### Hear what some local Queenslanders have to say about DLF Seeds

**SCAN FOR VIDEO**

**Farmer experience: Travis Parry**

**Agronomist experience: Ross Newman**



# TROPICAL & SUBTROPICAL GRASSES

## Featured:

**Mekong™ briz antha *brachiaria*, Humidicola, FineCut, Katambora Rhodes and Callide rhodes grass, Manzini sabi grass, Gatton Panic, Premier Digit, Floren bluegrass and Jarra grass.**

At DLF Seeds, we have a strong portfolio of forage seeds to help maximise your operation. For our full range of grasses, speak with your local Sales Agronomist or visit **dlfseeds.com.au/contact/contact-us**

## Key: Used for



**Beef**



**Dairy**



**Sheep**



**Hay**



**Silage**

# Mekong™ Briz antha

Brachiaria

**SCAN ME**
**Mekong™ briz antha *brachiaria* video**

## Mekong™ briz antha

***BRACHIARIA***



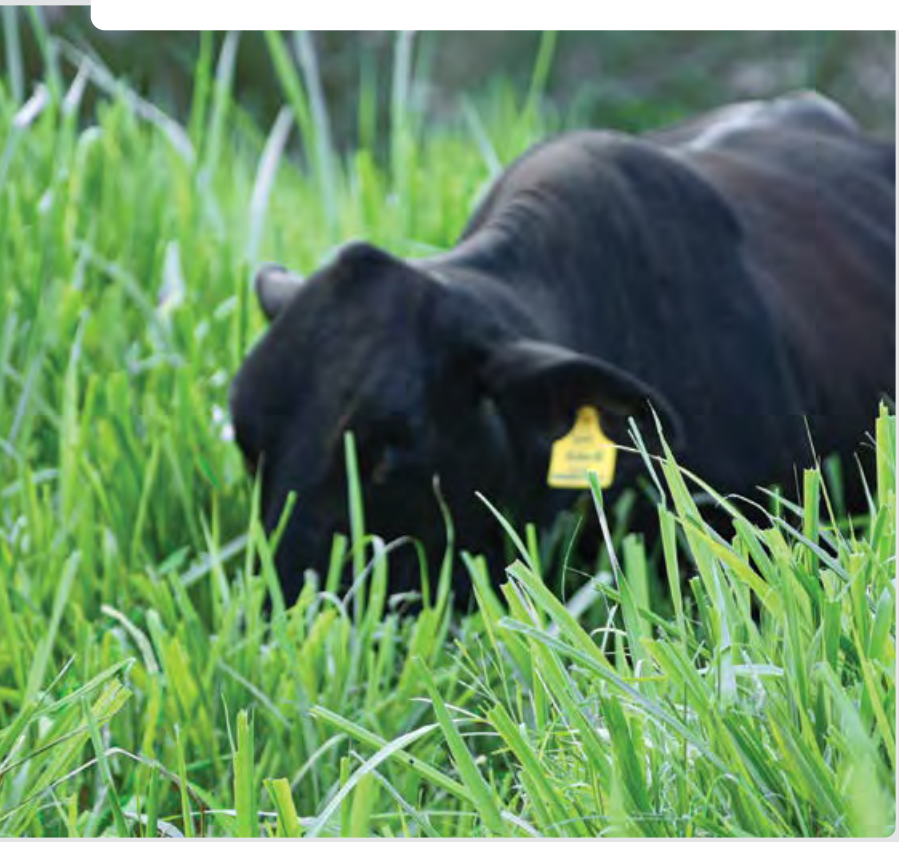
| | |
|---|---|
| **Sowing rate** | 8-10kg/ha (sole)<br>3-5kg/ha (mixed) |
| **Rainfall/Irrigation** | Minimum 500mm p.a.. |
| **Used for** | |

### Late flowering with outstanding dry matter production

Mekong™ briz antha *brachiaria* provides up to 8-9 months of vegetative growth due to late flowering/only flowering once a year. It is tolerant of short term flooding and waterlogging as well as salinity and acidic soils. Featuring a tall growth habit, Mekong can provide quality hay and dry matter production. Mekong is highly palatable and persistent under heavy grazing during the wet season and can provide good growth through the dry season.

- Adapted to a wide range of soil types
- Aggressive against weeds
- High dry matter production
- Persistent under intensive grazing
- Strong compatibility with tropical grasses and legumes
- Tolerant to periods of waterlogging

→ **Management is important – avoid allowing Mekong becoming too rank**



**One of Mekong's main benefits was its ability to suppress weeds and provide a large amount of ground cover whilst maintaining a really good, high quality feed base. It's a cow buffet out here, now I just need to find more cows to put on it.**

**Travis Parry**
Sarina Range, QLD

# Manzini

Sabi Grass

NEW

## Manzini

**SABI GRASS**



| | |
|---|---|
| **Sowing rate** | 4-8kg/ha (sole)<br>1-2kg/ha (mixed) |
| **Rainfall/Irrigation** | Minimum 500mm p.a. |
| **Used for** | |

### A high yielding, robust and palatable *urochloa*

Ideal for tropical and subtropical beef and sheep farmers, Manzini is a highly palatable *urochloa* that is tolerant of heavy grazing, allowing farmers to maximise stock carrying capacity and feed intake for improved animal performance and a higher return on investment.

Manzini provides farmers with excellent and consistent ground cover and growth throughout hot and cool seasons. This flexibility is due to Manzini's drought resistance and ability to withstand high temperatures, establish rapidly under heat pressure and continuous growth within hot and cool environments (providing not frost affected). If affected by frost, Manzini will maintain an upright growth habit and not lodge or fall over.

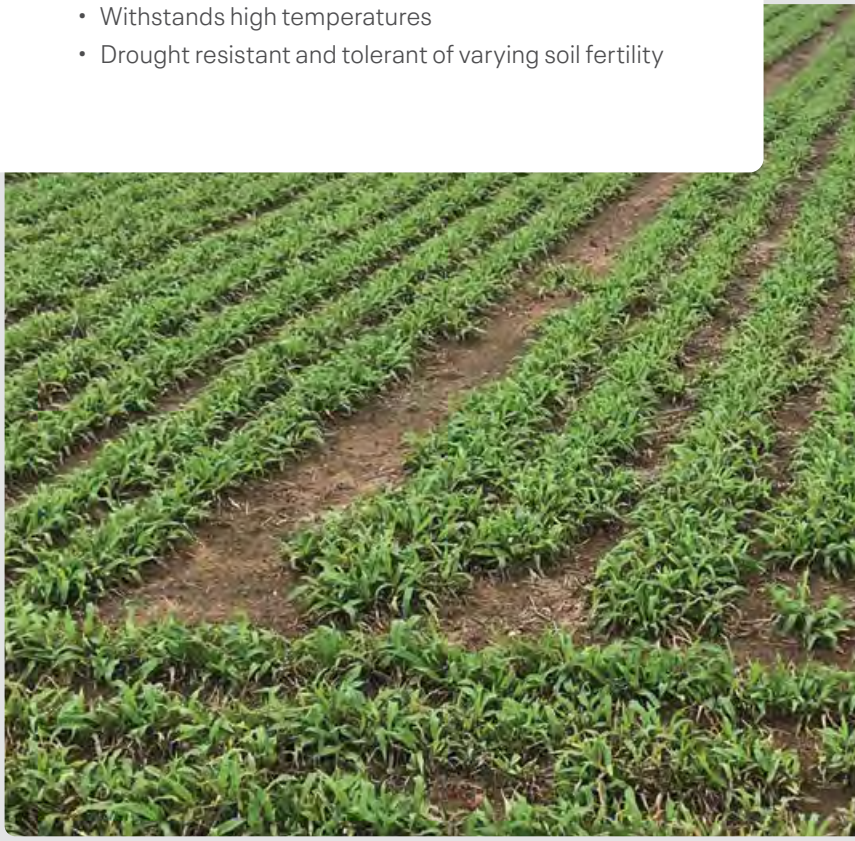
For best results and planting window flexibility, sow Manzini during the hottest time of year (germination will occur after rainfall).

- Fast to establish and early to first graze
- Palatable for high stock acceptance
- Tolerant of heavy grazing (high carrying capacity)
- Stays upright under frost pressure
- No stock toxicity
- Withstands high temperatures
- Drought resistant and tolerant of varying soil fertility

## Mix Recommendation*

Ask us about our treated MAXImiser® Sub Tropical Marginal Grass mix, or tweak it for a custom mix that suits your operation.

Contains: NEW Manzini sabi grass, Premier digit and Consol Love grass.



* Our goal is to deliver the MAXImiser® range to the recipes detailed in this guide. However, if we are unable to achieve this due to stock availability, the unavailable variety will be replaced with a suitable replacement.

# Humidicola

***BRACHIARIA***

### A true tropical pasture grass capable of high dry matter production in high rainfall areas

Humidicola can tolerate intense grazing and is adapted to a wide range of soil types from acidic soils to heavy, cracking clays. Humidicola will thrive on soils that are poorly drained and waterlogged for months on end.

- True tropical grass species
- Best planted in a mix with twining ground spreading legumes
- Strong performance in waterlogged soils
- Easy to establish and flood tolerant
- Excellent at suppressing weeds



| | |
|---|---|
| **Sowing rate** | 6-10kg/ha (sole)<br>4-6kg/ha (mixed) |
| **Rainfall/ Irrigation** | Minimum 1000mm p.a.. |
| **Used for** | |

# Finecut

**RHODES GRASS**

### A quality fine leaf grass, with good palatability

FineCut Rhodes is a stoloniferous warm season perennial grass that was originally released as a hay type. Being a diploid, it has proven itself to be a quality fine leaf grass that suits grazing and has good palatability.

Developed as a selection from two populations of Katambora types, FineCut adapts to a wide range of well drained soils, is quick to mature and flowers twice a year with an upright growth habit and will produce up to 20tDM/ha+.

- Early uniform flowering
- Dense upright growth habit
- High dry matter production
- Good palatability for hay and grazing
- Low oxalate levels



| | |
|---|---|
| **Sowing rate** | 6-8kg/ha (sole)<br>2-4kg/ha (mixed) |
| **Rainfall/ Irrigation** | Minimum 500mm p.a. |
| **Used for** | |

# Katambora

**RHODES GRASS**

### Versatile perennial for quality hay and forage

Katambora Rhodes grass is a versatile subtropical perennial that is adapted to a wide range of soil types and can produce high quality forage and hay (if cut at the right time).

In regions with extremely cold winters or long dry seasons, Katambora Rhodes grass can act as an annual and be used for erosion control. Due to its growth habit, Katambora Rhodes can restore soil structure, improve organic matter levels and reduce nematode numbers.

- Produces high quality hay
- Easily established with rapid growth in mixes
- Some tolerance to saline conditions
- Superior water use efficiency



| | |
|---|---|
| **Sowing rate** | 8-12kg/ha (sole)<br>3-5kg/ha (mixed) |
| **Rainfall/ Irrigation** | Minimum 500mm p.a. |
| **Used for** | |

# Gatton Panic

**PANIC GRASS**

### The palatable and leafy option for high productivity

Gatton Panic is a vigorous summer active perennial grass suited to a wide range of subtropical grazing operations. It is responsive to rainfall and tolerant to drought. Highly palatable and fantastic on its own or as part of a mix.

Gatton Panic prefers light to medium soil types and suits subtropical zones with annual rainfall of 500–1500mm.

If green plant material is frosted in winter, it can reshoot in spring when moisture and higher growing temperatures are present.

- Leafy plant that produces high quality, palatable forage
- Highly productive on fertile soils
- Compatible with subtropical legumes
- Moderate drought tolerance
- Very responsive to rainfall



| | |
|---|---|
| **Sowing rate** | 8-10kg/ha (sole)<br>2-6kg/ha (mixed) |
| **Rainfall/Irrigation** | Minimum 500mm p.a. |
| **Used for** | |

# Premier Digit

### Productive, palatable and persistent

Premier Digit is a persistent, palatable, warm season, tufted perennial grass that responds quickly to spring rainfall providing there is minimal frost damage present. Best sown in inland areas with lower rainfall, Premier Digit has good tolerance to drought and frost with leaves remaining palatable when frosted.

Premier Digit is largely found on lighter well drained soils (sands, sandy loams, loams and clay loams) but very rarely on clays.

- Highly palatable
- Tolerant of heavy grazing
- Frost, fire and drought tolerant
- Productive and persistent
- Tolerant of acidic soils
- Tolerant of moderate levels of exchangeable aluminium

→ **Limited cool season growth**



| | |
|---|---|
| **Sowing rate** | 6-10kg/ha (sole)<br>3-5kg/ha (mixed) |
| **Rainfall/Irrigation** | Minimum 600mm p.a. |
| **Used for** | |

# Jarra Grass

### Highly palatable tropical grass with excellent dry matter production

Jarra grass produces a soft quality pasture ideal for hay and northern beef production. An upright, true tropical perennial that will provide high quality feed for a 5-6 month period within a 2 year rotation.

Jarra grass can also be utilised as a break crop between bananas to disrupt the life cycle of the burrowing nematode (*Radopholus similis*) and as ground cover for erosion control. Growth of Jarra grass is restricted to warmer months of the year with moderate production either side of summer.

- True tropical grass species
- Quality hay production and grazing opportunities
- Grows on most well drained soil types
- High dry matter production (15-30tDM/ha/yr)
- Responds quickly after dry periods
- Very palatable to livestock

→ **Jarra grass can be grazed out if not managed well**



| | |
|---|---|
| **Sowing rate** | 1-10kg/ha |
| **Rainfall/Irrigation** | Minimum 500mm p.a. |
| **Used for** | |

# Floren Bluegrass



| | |
|---|---|
| **Sowing rate** | 6-10kg/ha (sole)<br>2-4kg/ha (mixed) |
| **Rainfall/Irrigation** | Minimum 650mm p.a. |
| **Used for** | |

### Warm season perennial for heavy grazing

A highly palatable, quality grass that can tolerate heavy grazing and moderate drought. Most productive from summer to early winter, Floren Bluegrass tolerates extreme weather conditions, salinity and is well suited to heavy red and black clay soils with neutral to alkaline pH levels.

Floren Bluegrass is a quality, warm season tufted perennial grass suited to tropical/subtropical regions including waterways, and in seasonally flooded/ waterlogged soils. Can deliver 9-11tDM/ha providing soil has adequate nutrition.

- Tufted, vigorous perennial
- Tolerates heavy grazing
- Suited to neutral to alkaline clay soils
- Tolerant to drought, floods and salinity
- Crude protein % of up to 12.5% in young, leafy plants
- Low oxalate levels

# Callide Rhodes

**RHODES GRASS**



| | |
|---|---|
| **Sowing rate** | 5-10kg/ha (sole)<br>2-4kg/ha (mixed) |
| **Rainfall/Irrigation** | Minimum 600mm p.a. |
| **Used for** | |

### Responsive to Nitrogen and highly palatable

Callide Rhodes grass is an easy to establish, tall, leafy, late maturing quality tetraploid. Callide Rhodes grass is suited to the subtropics and coastal regions east of the range. Compared to a diploid Rhodes grass, Callide has good palatability and broader leaves with a later flowering date that is influenced by shorter day lengths (<12hrs) with some plants flowering intermittingly. Given the chance to recover, Callide Rhodes will handle a heavy grazing. Callide Rhodes grass is suited to well structured clay and clay loam soils. It is not suited to heavy poorly drained clay soils. Highly responsive to P and N, Callide Rhodes will maintain its leafy quality and strong production with access to good nutrition.

- Highly palatable to cattle and tolerant of heavy grazing
- Best Rhodes grass to persist with seasonal flooding and waterlogging
- High nutritive value (hay and grazing)
- Easy to establish
- Tolerance to salinity and drought
- Delayed flowering date
- Low oxalate levels

## Mix Recommendation*

Ask us about MAXImiser® Subtropical Heavy Floodplain Soil Grass mix, or tweak it for a custom mix that suits your operation.

Contains: Floren Bluegrass, Bambatsi Panic and Katambora rhodes grass.

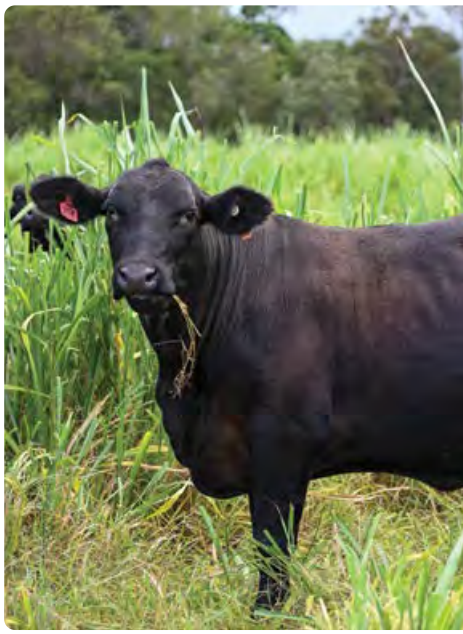
## Mix Recommendation*

Ask us about our MAXImiser® Tropical Coastal mix, or tweak it for a custom mix that suits your operation.

Contains: Callide Rhodes grass, Solander Setaria, Cardillo centro and Signal grass.

* Our goal is to deliver the MAXImiser® range to the recipes detailed in this guide. However, if we are unable to achieve this due to stock availability, the unavailable variety will be replaced with a suitable replacement.

# TROPICAL & SUBTROPICAL PASTURE MANAGEMENT



## The key to successful, long term pastures is planning! Aim for 1-3 years of preparation before sowing.

### Species Selection:

Select varieties for their suitability to the environment, soil condition, farm type, climatic zone and end use. Matching the variety selection with these key components will assist the plant in producing to its full potential and aid in persistence.

### Soil testing:

Understanding any nutritional limitations of tropical/subtropical pasture is essential and so soil testing should be completed at least 12 months in advance to allow enough time for deficiencies to be identified and fixed. To maximise forage production, apply annual applications of Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Sulphur to maintain soil profile nutrition, maximise forage production and produce large amounts of quality feed.

### Sowing conditions:

Sow seeds in shallow (10-20mm), firm soil with a drill that can provide good seed soil contact. Although sowing conditions vary by species, tropical/subtropical seed may be sown when day temperatures remain above 20°C consistently and night temperatures above 10°C for 7-10 days. Good subsoil moisture is essential as tropical species are sown when evaporation rates are high.

### Effective weed control:

Weed competition is a significant cause of underperforming pastures/pasture failure and can be prevented with weed control (prior to sowing). This becomes even more crucial in summer, as weeds compete for stored soil moisture.

**Note:** Very few herbicide options are available to control summer weeds.

**Note: When there is little or no legume content in the pasture, Nitrogen is vital to maintain production.**

## Grazing management

**Keep tropical/subtropical grasses short and leafy and rotationally graze for best results. Unless bulking/topping up the pasture, ensure young plants are well anchored before their first graze. When the plants are well anchored, a light graze may help improve the pasture by encouraging more leaves/tillers to develop and aid in weed suppression, due to increased pasture density.**

Maintain growth levels and productivity of pasture using rotational grazing and avoid overgrazing. Overgrazing may dramatically slow down the plant's recovery. In mixed pastures of grasses and legumes, maintain a plant residue post grazing of 150–200mm (as legumes are more palatable than grasses).

Grasses are at their best quality while leafy (before stem elongation), which is when it's most palatable and easiest to digest. As growth rates of C4 grasses respond quickly to heat units and moisture, occasional slashing or crash grazing is required if the pasture grows too tall or becomes rank. Alternatively, this can be managed by cutting hay to conserve surplus quality feed.



# LEGUMES

## Featured:

**Cardillo centro, Caatinga, V8™ stylo and Kalahari cow pea**

At DLF Seeds, we have a strong portfolio of forage seeds to help maximise your operation. For our full range of legumes and cow peas, speak with your local Sales Agronomist or visit **dlfseeds.com.au/contact/contacts-us**

## Key: Used for

Beef Sheep Hay Silage

# Caatinga

Stylo

## Caatinga

**STYLO**



| | |
|---|---|
| **Sowing rate** | 4-6kg/ha (sole)<br>2-5kg/ha (mixed) |
| **Rainfall/Irrigation** | Minimum 500mm p.a.. |
| **Used for** | |

### Extremely drought tolerant grazing legume

Caatinga is a perennial legume mix of Unica and Primar stylos. Extremely drought tolerant, originating from an environment that experiences a long dry season and irregular rainfall. Caatinga has shown persistence across a wide range of soil types over the past 20 years and is an effective weed suppressant on lighter soil types. Caatinga is suited to heavy grazing situations and set stocking after establishment.

- Long term perennial legume
- Early flowering and prolific seeding
- Excellent drought tolerance
- High quality grazing attributes
- Tolerates moderate frosts
- Persists in a wide range of soil types

**Several years ago I saw some results from the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), which showed that even in traditional Seca country, Caatinga stylo produced more kilograms of dry matter than the bigger older brother.**

**Ross Newman**
Consultant



V8®
Stylo

**SCAN ME**
**Mix video: V8® stylo, Mekong™ briz antha, Cardillo centro with Travis Parry (Farmer)**

## V8®
**STYLO**



| | |
|---|---|
| **Sowing rate** | 4-6kg/ha (sole)<br>2-4kg/ha (mixed) |
| **Rainfall/Irrigation** | Minimum 700mm p.a.. |
| **Used for** | |

### Highly palatable grazing legume with high protein

V8® stylo is a tropical pasture legume suited to environments where the average annual temperature ranges between 23-27°C. Hot and humid conditions accelerate plant growth. It provides a palatable legume pasture suited to both grazing and hay production. V8 can be used for silage and hay because of its high protein value, fine stem and its suitability to high fertility soils in waterlogging situations. V8® stylo is a tropical alternative to lucerne with 2, 4-D tolerance.

- Suited to sandy to light clay soils
- Adapted to acid infertile soils (low P demand)
- Performs well on its own or as part of a mix
- Highly palatable
- Excellent in a tropical crop rotation
- *Anthracnose* tolerance
- 2,4-D tolerant (6 weeks onwards)
- Cut and carry hay/silage option



## Mix Recommendation*

Ask us about our MAXImiser® Tropical Prime Coastal mix, or tweak it for a custom mix that suits your operation.

Contains: V8® stylo, Mekong™ briz antha, Callide rhodes, Solander Setaria and Cardillo centro.

* Our goal is to deliver the MAXImiser® range to the recipes detailed in this guide. However, if we are unable to achieve this due to stock availability, the unavailable variety will be replaced with a suitable replacement.

# Cardillo

Centro

## Cardillo

**CENTRO**



| | |
|---|---|
| **Sowing rate** | 4-6kg/ha (sole)<br>1-4kg/ha (mixed) |
| **Rainfall/Irrigation** | Minimum 800mm p.a. |
| **Used for** | |

### A shade tolerant grazing legume with high palatability

Cardillo centro is a tropical perennial legume, with trailing, climbing, twining characteristics with a strong taproot system. Cardillo can be used in a grazing system or as a standalone sward for a legume protein bank. Rotationally graze for high quality, palatable feed that responds well to fertiliser. As Cardillo centro roots at the nodes it will provide strong ground cover under appropriate soil moisture conditions.

Cardillo centro completes most if its growth during the warm season. This adaptable plant will grow in coastal tropical regions and cooler elevated Tableland conditions (growth from sea level to 1600m).

- High quality feed (crude protein levels 17-26%)
- High palatability
- Taprooted legume
- Persistance in pasture mixes due to strong rooting potential at the nodes



## Mix Recommendation*

Ask us about our MAXImiser® Tropical Coastal mix, or tweak it for a custom mix that suits your operation.

Contains: Cardillo centro, Callide Rhodes grass, Solander Setaria, V8® stylo and Signal grass.

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# Kalahari

Cow Pea

## Kalahari

**COW PEA**



| | |
|---|---|
| **Sowing rate** | 10-30kg/ha (sole) |
| **Rainfall/Irrigation** | Minimum 500mm p.a. |
| **Used for** | |

### Australian bred, new generation, multi purpose cowpea that adapts to a wide range of soil types

Kalahari is an Australian bred and developed multi purpose cowpea. Featuring a very strong spreading growth habit, Kalahari was selected for its high vegetative dry matter/ forage production and high seed yields. It is an easy to establish crop with high seedling vigour, wide adaption to soil types and drought tolerance. Kalahari has shown to be very palatable with a large leaf area and attractive dark green foliage.

- High quality summer finishing feed
- Good drought and heat stress tolerance
- Adapted to a wide ranges of soil types
- Strong forage type with good regrowth potential
- Suitable for intercrop (maize, sorghum and millets)
- High levels of Nitrogen fixation



**Mix of Kalahari cowpea, Lawrence pearl millet, Callide rhodes and perennial chicory.**

# GERRY'S GUIDE TO PASTURE GRASS SEED ESTABLISHMENT

## Growing up on a farm in Mareeba coupled with 20 years' experience as an Agronomist, Gerry Dogao has a unique perspective on agricultural and seeding practices in far north Queensland when it comes to pasture seed selection, sowing and establishment.

**When it comes to establishing the right pasture for tropical and subtropical climates, Gerry recommends the following steps:**

- Prepare the seed beds properly by clearing the area of weeds and debris.
- Seek out advice from experts including your local DLF Seeds Sales Agronomist, rural retailer, local Agronomist or Ag contractor.
- Conduct a soil test to understand the soil nutrition. This will aid us in knowing the best seed mix for your pastures and identify any nutrition deficiencies.
- Source high quality seeds for planting and plant with the best equipment at your disposal, preferably a seeder.
- Use a pre fertiliser to provide nutrients to pastures.
- Don't graze the pasture too early, once you can't pull plants out of the ground by hand, it is ready for a light graze. This encourages quick regeneration and tillering.
- If you can't pull it out, you can do a crash graze to bring the pasture down to about 200mm (this encourages quick regeneration and tillering).

Once tropical and subtropical pastures are properly established, they usually last multiple years. To get the most out of a pasture, keeping good management practices such as staying on top of grazing to avoid pastures becoming rank, will ensure your weed burden in minimised and that your stock feed, yield, feed nutrition content, and profit is maximised.

Choosing the right seed varieties that complement your environment and stock finishing goals, also play a huge part in the success of your pasture.





Pasture of Mekong™ briz antha, V8® stylo & Cardillo centro, Mackay, QLD

## Best pasture seed for tropical and subtropical climates

In tropical and subtropical climates like North and Central Queensland, Gerry says the right seeds can persist through extreme weather conditions, including flooding.

*"The main grasses I would recommend for a tropical region is Callide Rhodes, Gatton Panic, Katambora Rhodes, Jarra grass and **Mekong™ briz antha brachiaria**. For legumes, **V8® stylo**, Burgundy Bean and **Cardillo centro**,"* he says.

Gerry also underlines the importance of sourcing high quality seeds that are fit for the farm's soil type, emphasising the importance of clearing the area of weeds and debris to create the best environment for seed growth and prevent pests.

Mekong and Humidicola outcompete weeds like Giant Rats Tail grass due to their vigorous and high competition growth.

*"Weed grasses like Giant Rats Tail can be prolific in these climates, but the right grass choice can reduce its effects. **Mekong** and **Humidicola** are the best grasses to help control Giant Rats Tail, they're quick growers and can out compete it for sunlight, improving overall pasture quality."*



## Getting the right seed mix

Gerry works with graziers, farmers and rural retailers across Queensland to create and provide the ideal mix of cultivars that suits their needs.

*"I enjoy walking through their farm to understand their goals and system. This helps to determine the steps and preparation needed, to provide them with the best possible product that complements their soil type, environment and their farm goals,"* Gerry explains.

*"I'll ask what soil type their farm is, which helps me choose the species of grass or legumes. I'll also ask what's going to be grazing there – whether it's weaners, steers or breeders, because they all have different nutritional requirements from a cow feed perspective.*

*With weaners and steers, you want to put weight on them quite quickly and get them ready for sale, while for breeders it's about keeping them healthy for breeding."*

# Gerry's recommendations for spring

Looking ahead to spring sowings for tropical and coastal climates Gerry recommends a balanced mix of pasture grass and legume seed species to ensure robust pasture growth.

*"If you are looking for high yields, and have 500mm or more annual rainfall, three to four kilograms per hectare of **Mekong** and two to three kilograms per hectare of **Callide Rhodes**, is worth considering,"* he says.

*"To add a nutritional and Nitrogen fixing legume component to this mix, consider adding two kilograms per hectare of legumes such as V8® stylo and one kilogram per hectare of Burgundy Bean."*

The benefit of custom pasture seed mixes is that it can be tailored to an environment and farm goals.

*"As with all custom mixes, this grass and legume mix would need to be adjusted slightly to meet the needs of each farm and the environmental conditions"*



*"Once this custom pasture seed mix of grass seed and legume seed has been tweaked to suit your operation, graziers may benefit from 10 or so kilos per hectare of a nutritious pasture, that is suitable for various grazing needs and environmental conditions."* Gerry concludes.

Ultimately, a tropical pasture mix of grasses and legumes is a great seed mix option for cattle feed, cattle grazing, hay and silage.





## Custom mix

**Looking for a mix that is tailored to your needs?**

**Speak to your local DLF Seeds Sales Agronomist for advice on the ideal custom mix for you.**

# MIXES & BLENDS

## Profitable solutions for every operation

### MAXImiser® ranges available

- Northern (tropical & subtropical) MAXImiser® mixes
- National MAXImiser® mixes and blends
- Southern MAXImiser® mixes and blends

For more recommendations on what MAXImiser® mix is right for you including details on seed treatments and enhancements – contact your local DLF Seeds Sales Agronomist whose details can be found on the back of this guide.

### Product availability

Our goal is to deliver the MAXImiser® range to the recipes detailed in this guide. However, if we are unable to achieve this due to stock availability, the unavailable variety will be replaced with a suitable replacement.

# MAXIMISER® RANGE

| Tropical | Varieties | Sowing rate | Rainfall/ Irrigation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Coastal | Signal grass, Callide Rhodes, Solander Setaria, Cardillo centro and Burgundy bean | 12-15kg/ha | Minimum 800mm p.a. |
| Extensive Heavy Soil | Bambatsi Panic, Caatinga Stylo, Biloela Buffel, Marc Desmanthus and Burgundy bean | 8-12kg/ha | Minimum 500mm p.a. |
| Extensive Light Soil | Gayndah Buffel, Manzini sabi grass, Caatinga stylo and Buffel Mix | 8-12kg/ha | Minimum 500mm p.a. |
| Intensive Heavy Soil | Katambora Rhodes, Bambatsi Panic, Caatinga stylo, Biloela Buffel, Marc Desmanthus and Milgarra Butterfly pea | 10-15kg/ha | Minimum 600mm p.a. |
| Intensive Light Soil | Katambora Rhodes, Premier Digitaria, Gatton Panic, Caatinga stylo and Burgundy bean | 10-15kg/ha | Minimum 600mm p.a. |
| Northern Extensive | Jarra grass, Gayndah Buffel, Manzini sabi grass, Lawrence Pearl Millet, Mega stylo mix, and Wynn Cassia | 8-12kg/ha | Minimum 500mm p.a. |
| Prime Coastal | Mekong™ briz antha *brachiaria*, Callide Rhodes, Solander Setaria, V8® stylo and Cardillo centro | 12-15kg/ha | Minimum 800mm p.a. |

| Subtropical | Varieties | Sowing rate | Rainfall/ Irrigation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Heavy Floodplain Soil Grass | Floren Bluegrass, Bambatsi Panic and Katambora Rhodes | 8-12kg/ha | Minimum 500mm p.a. |
| Light Soil Grass | Premier Digitaria, Gatton Panic and Katambora Rhodes | 8-12kg/ha | Minimum 500mm p.a. |
| Marginal Grass | Premier Digitaria, Manzini sabi grass, and Consol love grass | 6-8kg/ha | Minimum 400mm p.a. |
| Slopes & Plains Security | Premier Digitaria, Bambatsi Panic, Gatton Panic and Katambora Rhodes | 8-12kg/ha | Minimum 500mm p.a. |

**Treatment Note:** MAXImiser Tropical mixes may contain some treated seed (either Envirogro® or Superstrike®). For details on what seed treatment is used, contact your local DLF Seeds Sales Agronomist/Rural Retailer or check the bags for details.

## NOTES

# PROFIT AND SUSTAINABILITY IN NORTHERN QLD

## Gemel and Luigi, cultivating pastures for profit and sustainability in FNQ

**Gemel and Luigi are seasoned cattle and sheep farmers from Marian Queensland (30 km west of Mackay) who have run a successful livestock farm for nearly 20 years.**

Over the years, they have developed a well-honed approach to pasture management and seed selection with the help from DLF Seeds. However this spring, they have incorporated a more natural seed management practice with a seed mix that meets their goal to reduce the use of synthetic fertilisers.

In the past, Gemel and Luigi have had success with a straight sown paddock of **Jarra grass** and, a mixed pasture of DLF Seeds **Mekong™ briz antha** and **V8® stylo** – all of which has kept their pastures, cattle and sheep in good shape.

Mekong has been a cornerstone of their operation and has proven particularly effective for the tropical conditions of North Queensland. Its rapid response to the region's climate, resilience to extreme weather and its ability to subdue undesirable species such as Giant Parramatta grass and make Mekong one of the star performers in Gemel and Luigi's improved pasture system.

Recently, Gemel and Luigi have introduced more legumes into their operation.

*"We were aiming to cut back on synthetic fertilisers and use microbes and natural methods to improve soil health,"* Gemel said.

*"I've been incorporating legumes with the grasses, like V8® stylo, Burgundy Bean and more recently, Lucerne, to get the Nitrogen that boosts plant growth naturally and reduce the need for synthetic fertilisers,"* Luigi added.

By reducing their dependence on synthetic fertilisers and incorporating more **legumes** into their pasture seed mix, Gemel and Luigi aim to enhance their soil health naturally and support the microbes and other bugs that improve soil structure and fertility.








*"Mekong and Humidicola outgrow and smother weeds/ undesirable species like Giant Parramatta grass, reducing our dependence on chemicals"* Luigi said.

This is why maintaining **Mekong** in their pasture and seed mix decision is crucial for controlling Giant Parramatta grass as a high weed burden of this can significantly degrade pasture quality.

As they refine their approach, Gemel and Luigi are working closely with DLF Seeds Sales Agronomist Gerry Dogao who has been instrumental in helping them develop this Spring's seed mix (in 2024), including **Mekong™ briz antha**, Solander Setara, **Caatinga stylo**, **V8® stylo** and Burgundy Bean.

*"I worked with Gemel and Luigi across their whole property, working out what they need for each paddock to create the seed mix that will help them achieve their goals."* explains Gerry.

*"We've begun using lucerne on their property too. Lucerne is a legume that fixes its own Nitrogen, all whilst supporting the production of protein critical to healthy plants and livestock. By adding lucerne to their mix, we're introducing an additional source of nitrogen into their pasture system, which in turn helps to promote healthier pastures."*

The custom seed mix Gerry has developed for Gemel and Luigi continues to help their farm prosper and work toward their sustainability goals this Spring (in 2024).

*"You want a product that's going to actually work for you and DLF Seeds does just that. Gerry always comes out to the property and provides advice specific to our needs, and that support really does contribute to the success of our farm."* Concludes Luigi and Gemel.

DLF Seeds varieties are available through you local, rural retailer. For more information on the ideal tropical or subtropical pasture seed mix for the QLD environment, reach out to your local DLF Seeds Sales Agronomist at **dlfseeds.com.au/contact/contact-us.**

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# SEED TREATMENTS & ENHANCEMENTS

**Applying a seed treatment to forage seed is a very effective plant protection tool, helping to ensure seedling establishment and early plant development is maximised so that a high producing pasture or crop can be achieved.**

The first six weeks after sowing is a critical stage in the life of a new plant as seedlings emerge and develop their plant structures. Seed treatment has a very important role to play during this period as seed treatment protects the seedling during establishment (0 - 6 weeks), and it is during this time that seedlings are most at risk from external factors, such as pest and disease pressure.

# ENVIROGRO®

SEED TREATMENT & ENHANCEMENT



## Seed enhanced and treated: A tailored process for cleaner and more pure live seed.

**Ideal for:**

- Growers focused on precision sowing
- Growers demanding maximum germination efficiency and productivity per hectare

**Used for:**

Envirogro™ is suited for use on some tropical/subtropical grass and legume varieties. It is especially useful to use on fluffy/rough seed types or seed crops that are likely to pick up debris during seed harvest.

**Envirogro™ benefits:**

- Includes Superstrike® seed treatment
- A cleaner seed with less dust, chaff and debris
- A tailored process including dehulling or partial dehulling (when the species warrants it)
- More uniformed seed size for better seed flow and metering at sowing
- The potential for a higher pure live seed count in the bag
- Easier sowing and establishment

**Contains:**

The seed treatment component of Envirogro™ contains the same additives found within Superstrike® seed treatment. For details, see page 26 of this guide or visit dlfseeds.com.au.

## The process explained

### Phase 1: Cleaning



Bare seed is harvested from the paddock and cleaned of contaminants and debris.

**Seed is tested and cleaned after every phase**

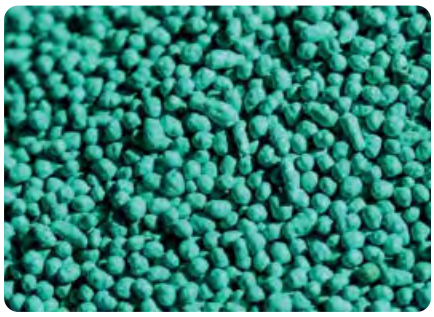
### Phase 2: Dehulling/scarification (species specific)



Where applicable, the bare seed is taken through a process of dehulling/ scarification, which removes seed husk entirely/partially from the caryopsis.

**Seed is tested and cleaned after every phase**

### Phase 3: Coating



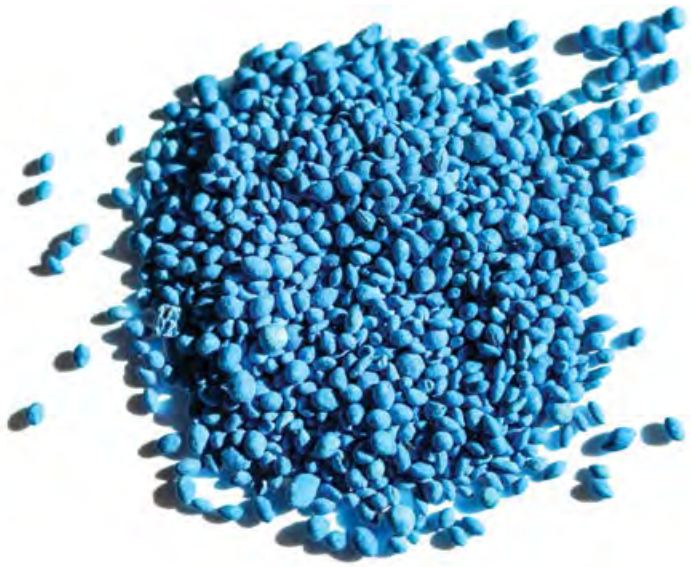
The caryopses is pelleted. This phase also includes a coating of insecticide (Superstrike®), polymers and talc/lime to provide the seedling with improved success rates.

**Seed is tested and cleaned after every phase**

# SUPERSTRIKE®

SEED TREATMENT

## Seed treated: A combination of seed protection and enhancement additives.



**Used for:**

- Legumes and tropical/subtropical seeds

**Superstrike® benefits:**

- Assists in maximising seedling establishment, plant development and forage yields
- Targeted protection against major insects and diseases during the first 0-6 weeks after sowing
- Not harmful to beneficials, such as earthworms
- Cost effective compared with 'broadacre' control options

**Contains:**

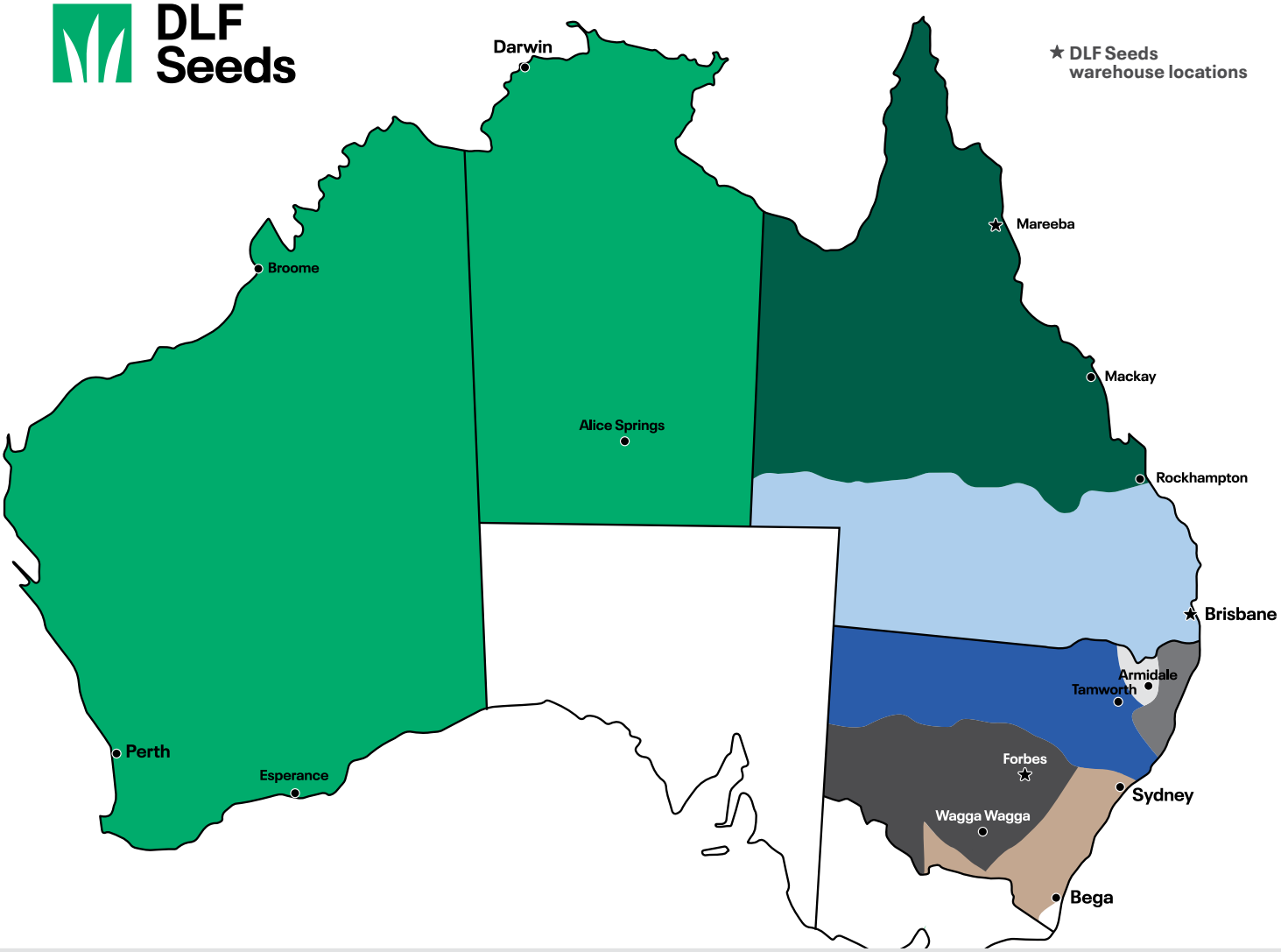
- Poncho® Plus, a systemic insecticide for protection against Red Legged Earth Mite, Blue Oat Mite, Cutworm and Lucerne Flea (suppression only). Please note, in some cases where high numbers of pests are present, a follow up insecticide treatment may be necessary
- Apron XL® fungicide or Axy-M fungicide are applied to control against 'damping off' diseases *Pythium* and *Fusarium*, applied to sub clover and lucerne
- Inoculated with Nitrogen-fixing bacteria *Rhizobia* (no *Rhizobia* inoculant applied to tropical legumes)
- A fine lime base for localised pH correction around seedlings





# NOTES

DLF Seeds




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**Seed Treatment**
Products contained in seed treatments used by DLF Seeds are subject to change without notice. Please refer to the bag information label at time of purchase for details of current inclusions in DLF Seeds seed treatment.


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