

Silver

SNAIL MEDIC *Medicago scutellata*



Seeding Rate	kg/ha
Dryland	15 - 18
High Rainfall/Irrigation	18 - 25

Seed Treatment	Goldstrike LongLife®
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Description
Snail medic variety with excellent vigour and persistence

Market Segment/Target
Regenerating annual pastures

Features
Early maturing
'Snail' shaped seed pod
Erect growth habit with very early bulk

Benefits
Excellent hay option
Some tolerance to lower pH soils
Rapid establishment vigour due to large seed size

Range	
Low Bloat™	N
Super N Fixer™	N
XtraLeaf®	N

SEED AGRONOMY TABLE	
Maturity	N
Hard Seed Level (description)	N
Waterlogging Tolerance	Fair
Flowering	77 days

ESTABLISHMENT GUARANTEE™

At S&W Seed Company Australia we're so confident about our seed genetics and seed quality, we will replace seed at half the original purchase price if it fails to establish satisfactorily in the first thirty days*

STRENGTHS

Well adapted to alkaline, cracking clay soils
Useful in crop/pasture rotation systems
Vigorous seedlings and high DM production
Good tolerance to red legged earth mite
Less likelihood of bloat than with other medics

LIMITATIONS

Poor persistence in long term tropical grass pastures
Not adapted to soils with pH greater than 6.0
Regenerating seedlings can be a weed problem in winter crops

PASTURE TYPE AND USE

Generally winter growing annual ley legume in dryland cereal growing regions of southern and subtropical Australia, where it is grazed by livestock or cut for hay. It is suited for hay production because of its upright growth. It may be used as a legume component in permanent grass/legume pastures in the cooler subtropics.

WHERE IT GROWS

Rainfall: Requires an annual rainfall of 300 to 700 millimetres.

Soils:

Temperature: A winter/spring growing annual that can withstand low temperatures, although production is limited by frosts. More productive when sown in early autumn.

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PLANT DESCRIPTION

Plant: Semi-erect to erect, selfregenerating, cool season annual legume, growing to 50 centimetres tall.

Stems: Soft, semi-erect, branching and hairy.

Leaves: Comprise three elliptically shaped, hairless, leaflets (sometimes with short hairs on the upper surface, and short to longer hairs on the lower surface); 15 to 30 millimetres long, 7 to 20 millimetres wide; leaf margin serrated; purple flecking (generally sparse) in some cultivars.

Flowers: Yellow to orange yellow, about 10 millimetres wide, 1 to 3 in a cluster.

Pods: Large (13 millimetres), spineless, globe-shaped, comprising five to six coils; straw coloured to grey to dark grey when mature, containing six to ten seeds.

ESTABLISHMENT

Sowing/Planting rates in mixtures: Sow at a rate depending on the proportion in the mix, but generally 3 to 4 kilograms per hectare. Ensure seed is Goldstrike LongLife® treated.

Sowing/Planting rates as single species: 15 to 18 kilograms per hectare. Ensure seed is Goldstrike LongLife® treated.

Sowing time: Early autumn to early winter.

Inoculation: Goldstrike LongLife® treated. The use of Goldstrike LongLife® seed treatment is recommended to reduce damage from insects at seedling stages.

Fertiliser: Where soils are low in nutrients, particularly phosphorus (P) and/or sulphur (S), it would be beneficial to apply 10 to 15 kilograms P and 10 kilograms siemens per hectare annually, and copper (Cu), zinc (Zn) and molybdenum (Mo) if they are deficient. Soil tests will determine the need and appropriate rates. In permanent pasture, fertilise according to deficiencies identified in soil tests.

MANAGEMENT

Maintenance fertiliser: Snail medic is generally grown in rotation with crops. If the soils are deficient, particularly in P and S, the crops are fertilised accordingly. In a rotation system, there should be sufficient residual fertiliser for good medic production. Soil tests will determine the need and appropriate fertiliser rates.

Grazing/Cutting: In the establishment year, delay grazing until plants are well established. Graze leniently until flowering then remove stock to maximise seed set. Rotationally graze in following years. Snail medic is susceptible to heavy grazing. Pods may be eaten by sheep grazing the pasture during the summer and on soils that are not self mulching, this may reduce the seed reserve significantly.

Ability to Spread: Small amounts of seed are spread in the dung following ingestion by livestock. Seed can also be spread through hay.

Weed Potential: Low weed potential as snail medic is palatable and readily eaten by livestock, and is limited in its soil adaptation. Being a self regenerating annual with a staggered germination, it can be a weed of cereal and grain legume crops.

Major Pests: Some tolerance to red legged earth mite, lucerne flea and spotted alfalfa aphid, but susceptible to blue green aphid.

Major Diseases: Susceptible to root rot, alfalfa mosaic virus, and black stem fungus/phoma.

Herbicide Susceptibility: Susceptible to residual herbicides from a cropping phase, particularly sulfonylurea on alkaline soils.

ANIMAL PRODUCTION

Palatability: Palatable.

Production Potential: Live weight gain of 1 kilogram per day with cattle or 300 grams per day with lambs can be expected.

Livestock Disorders/Toxicity: Occasionally red gut in sheep; can cause bloat in cattle, though with a lower probability than other medics.



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