



# Alto Panicum

*Panicum maximum*

Alto Panicum is in a league of its own when it comes to comparing the giant Panic's of the grazing world. Originally from South America, Southedge Seeds has spent the last few years increasing pre basic seed to make Alto Panicum a commercial reality within the Australian pasture seed market.

## Checklist

- ✓ **True tropical grass species**
- ✓ **Up to 28% higher dry matter yield over other Guinea grass cultivars**
- ✓ **Accepted by all grazing animals**
- ✓ **Excellent leaf (80%) to stem (20%) ratio**
- ✓ **Suitable for hay & silage production**
- ✓ **Moderate drought and cold tolerance**
- ✓ **Response to periodic fertiliser applications**
- ✓ **Suitable for intensive grazing systems**
- ✓ **Sowing Rate - 25 - 100 ENVIROGRO™ pellets per square metre or 1.5 - 5kg/ha depending on pure live seed count**

## Environment

Alto Panicum is a true tropical grass species requiring 1000 – 1500mm of summer dominant annual rainfall. There is potential for production under irrigation where annual rainfall is less than this. It is best suited regions between 0—1000m above sea level with average daily temperature greater than 20°C. Although leaves are sensitive to frost, plants will typically recover from light frosts.

## Soil Type

Alto Panicum will grow on most free draining soil types as long there is fertility to sustain the production of high levels of dry matter (up to 85 000kg DM/ha/yr). Like most *Panicum maximum* cultivars, Alto Panicum is not tolerant of salinity and extended periods of water logging. Soil pH should be near 6.0 - 7.5 with no Al<sup>+++</sup> toxicities to achieve maximum performance from Alto Panicum.

## Establishment

Establishing Alto Panicum can cause many of the headaches that

are usually experienced with most other tropical pasture species. Seed can often contain high levels of dormant seed, resulting in delayed germination after planting. ENVIROGRO™ pelleted seed does overcome this issue somewhat as much of the seed glume is removed during processing.

Like most grass species, the best establishment results for Alto Panicum will be achieved by shallow planting (no greater than 10mm) into a fully prepared seed bed, some degree of compaction to ensure excellent seed/soil contact.

While Alto Panicum can be planted into mixed pastures, it would be recommended to be sown by itself to make grazing management easier and to best maximize the production capabilities.

Once established, Alto Panicum should be regularly not allowing plant height to exceed 1 metre, with grazing continuing to a height of 0.3 metre before grazing animals are removed.



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