



Pastures For The Central & Southern Queensland Grazing Zone



Caatinga Stylo

Caatinga Stylo is the stylo for brigalow / belah soils in the South Western grazing zone where soils are neutral to alkaline. It is a mixture of Unica & Primar Stylo and they display excellent tolerance to both frost and drought, and display excellent persistence under grazed conditions. Because the Caatinga Stylos are a strong, perennial species, establishment does tend to be slow, so careful consideration and planning is required for successful establishment. Results from trials at Roma and Wallumbilla have shown that once established with Buffel and Bambatsi Panic, the Caatinga Stylos can increase productivity markedly. The biggest role for Caatinga Stylos, exists in being incorporated into tired, mono-specific buffel stands where production has dropped dramatically. Band Seeding is possibly the most successful and cost effective method of incorporating these stylos into buffel pastures. If you are planting with a seed mixture of grasses and Caatinga, the use of nitrogen fertilizers must be avoided to reduce competition at establishment.



Alpha Bluegrass

Alpha Bluegrass is a highly persistent productive grass for rainfall zones with greater than 500mm, and has the ability to handle low to medium fertility soils being productive on sandy to clay soil types. The persistence of Alpha comes from its inherit early flowering, reaching maturity well before seasonal frost and will handle short wet seasons. Its soft leaf and stem makes it extremely palatable to stock, and will also make excellent hay.



Fine Stem Stylo

When you have low annual rainfall, on light acid soils in frost prone country, Fine Stem Stylo is a first choice summer growing legume. Mixing within Black Spear Grass, Fine Stem will provide the necessary protein boost essential for successful production. The low growth habit means it is able to withstand periodic heavy grazing, as well as providing excellent ground cover within tufted grass species.



SupaSab

When it comes to speed of response to first season rains, few things come close to Urochloa. A species that will often colonize within a paddock, SupaSab's broad soft leaf is highly palatable and full of protein in its early growth, something that is critical at the beginning of the season. Its low growth habit helps provide much needed ground cover when the early season storms hit. Tending to grow on the lighter soil types, SupaSab will tend to hay off once moisture becomes limiting.

Rhodes Grass

Both Callide and Katambora Rhodes grasses are well suited to sub tropical growing regions. Callide can handle some water logging and requires reasonable soil nutrition to persist, whilst Katambora is known to be a more hardier cultivar.



Buffel Grass

Buffel Grass is possibly the most widely planted grass pasture in Australia. The main restriction as to where buffel will grow is soil phosphorus levels (greater than 7ppm). Gayndah and USA are the two most common cultivars planted tending to grow on sandy loams to brigalow soil, with Biloela being suited to heavier clay soils.



Milgarra Butterfly Pea

Milgarra Butterfly Pea is the number one legume for heavy clay soils in Central Queensland. It has an ability to persist on heavy cracking clay soils. Milgarra does struggle to compete with grasses when it is establishing.



Bambatsi Panic

Bambatsi Panic is quite possibly one of the best suited grass species for melon hole country, handling both the soil cracking in the dry along with the periodic wet feet, although it is still adapt on clay loam soils. Its tufted nature means it combines well with legumes such as Caatinga Stylo, Milgarra Butterfly Pea and Lucerne.



Gatton Panic

Gatton Panic is well suited to the lighter brigalow/belah soils with moderate fertility. It shows moderate persistence in >500mm rainfall zones, and will provide better spring growth than most other tropical grass species. Gatton Panic is proving to be the grass of choice for planting in between Leucaena rows.



Wynn Cassia

Wynn Cassia is an underrated pasture legume in the Central & Southern Queensland grazing zone. When planted in combination with grass species such as SupaSab, Buffel, and Black Spear Grass, Wynn Cassia provides benefits of fixed soil nitrogen, and a suitable protein source when the grasses begin to hay off. Phosphorus and Sulphur supplementation will encourage better utilization of the Wynn Cassia. Is best suited to light sandy soils, where many legumes struggle to establish.



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