

# Aztec Atro

*Macroptilium atropurpureum*

*Aztec Atro, an improved rust resistant Siratro cultivar licensed under joint Plant Breeder Rights to Southedge Seeds, is a highly summer active growing legume, capable of out yielding many other tropical pasture legumes under the right growing conditions.*

## Checklist

- ✓ Twining, climbing legume
- ✓ Grows in both tropical and sub tropical climates
- ✓ Productive over a wide soil type range
- ✓ Excellent drought tolerance
- ✓ Establishes quickly
- ✓ Compatible with a wide range of grass species
- ✓ 30% higher leaf production than Siratro
- ✓ Sowing rate of 1-4 ENVIROGRO® pellets per square metre or dependent on pure seed count 1-2kg/ha

## Environment

Aztec Atro will grow in both tropical and elevated tropical environments. Best plant growth is achieved when average daytime and night time temperatures are between 27-30°C and 22-25°C respectively. Annual summer dominant rainfall needs to be greater than 700mm to achieve potential production.

## Soil Type

Aztec Atro will grow on a wide range of soil types from dark cracking clays to yellow and red clays to sand and gravel soils. Soil pH ideally should range from 6.5 - 8.0, but circumstances have seen successful establishment at extremes on either side of the spectrum. Aztec Atro shows moderate levels of tolerance to both Aluminium and Manganese and has a better tolerance to salinity than most other tropical legumes.

## Establishment

Because of Aztec Atro's seed size, establishing plants within a new pasture system is relatively easy as long as there is reasonable seed soil contact and minimal competition from weeds and other establishing species. While individual

plants may persist for up to four years, pastures benefit from spelling every 2-3 years during seed set to bolster soil seed reserves and reinvigorate plants. Quite often pastures that have seen Aztec Atro slowly die out, will benefit from pasture renovation which stimulates seedling recruitment. While Aztec Atro has a broad range of nodulation and can effectively nodulate on native rhizobia present in most soils, the ENVIROGRO® seed is pre inoculated to ensure fast effective nitrogen fixation. The recommended sowing rate for a productive mixed pasture is 1-4 seeds/m<sup>2</sup>, or 1-2kg/ha.