SOUTHEDGE SEEDS

sowing the seeds of prosperity

STYLHAY™

Stylosanthes guianensis

Stylhay™ is a commercially produced stylo mixture that is marketed solely by Southedge Seeds. The mixture is comprised of Nina and Temprano stylo as well as a new selection that Southedge Seeds has identified to have similar characteristics as well as cold tolerance.

Checklist

- ✓ **Strict tropical legume**
- ✓ **Suited to sandy - sandy loam soil types**
- ✓ **Performs well when planted either by itself or in combination with grass species**
- ✓ **Highly palatable and accepted by grazing animals**
- ✓ **Excellent relative feed values for a tropical legume**
- ✓ **Suitable for hay / silage production**
- ✓ **Excellent break crop for sugar cane**
- ✓ **Ability to suppress weeds**
- ✓ **Sowing Rate:- 1 - 50 ENVIROGRO® pellets per square metre or dependent on pure seed count 1 - 8kg/ha**

Environment

Stylhay™ is a tropical pasture legume suited to tropical environments, where the average annual temperature ranges between 23-27°C, but can come down as low as 19°C. Plant growth is accelerated by hot humid conditions. Annual summer dominant rainfall needs to be greater than 800mm to achieve optimum productivity.

Soil Type

Stylhay™ performs best on open textured, sand to light clay soils, however, performance decreases as soil clay content increases. Unlike many other tropical legumes, Stylhay performs exceptionally well on acid soils with soil pH as low as 4. At such low soil pH levels, elements such as Aluminium are present in toxic levels but do not seem to impede plant growth. The hollow stem of Stylhay™ allows it to tolerate periodic waterlogging, which is often common in the wet tropics.

Establishment

Establishing Stylhay™ either in a pasture system or for fodder production is relatively easy. However, because of the size of the seed, sowing depth needs to be as close to the soil surface as possible while still maintaining good seed soil contact. Because it is a perennial species, growth in the first 6-8 weeks after germination is slow as the plant develops a strong root system. After this period, plant growth accelerates dramatically, especially with the combination of heat and moisture.

If crops are being sown for fodder production, benefits have been noticed when crops have been lightly slashed once plants are 15cm tall. This will encourage branching and stimulate a greater leaf to stem ratio. Issues will arise if crops are allowed to grow rank and shade out crown shoots, from which the plant requires to regrow once it has been cut. Without these shoots, regrowth will be slow and in some instances will result in plant death.

When being used in crop rotations, broadleaf weed control is made easy by the fact that plants are tolerant to 2,4-D herbicide from a relatively early stage.

ENVIROGRO®

agronomically modified pasture seeds

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