



sowing the seeds of prosperity

VERANO STYLO

Stylosanthes hamata

Verano Stylo was originally introduced to replace Townsville Stylo which was wiped out by Anthracnose in the 1970's. Because of its plant characteristics, it is a valuable inclusion into any stylo mix in the Northern Grazing zone because of its ability to produce high levels of quality dry matter in above average wet seasons, augmenting the feed value available to grazing animals.

Checklist

- ✓ **Suited to the hot, dry tropics**
- ✓ **Grows on a wide range of soils**
- ✓ **Can tolerate heavy grazing pressure**
- ✓ **Behaves as a strong annual / weak biennial depending on the season**
- ✓ **Seed can be spread by grazing animals**
- ✓ **Can fix reasonable levels of soil nitrogen**
- ✓ **Can be used in ley farming systems**
- ✓ **Sowing Rate - 10 - 40 ENVIROGRO® pellets per square metre or 1-4kg/ha depending on pure live seed count**

Environment

Verano Stylo grows well in the hot, dry tropics and the warmer subtropical regions where the average annual rainfall is greater than 650mm and falls during the 15-25 week growing season. Best adaptation occurs where the average annual temperature exceeds 22°C. Plant growth is limited once night temperatures decline to about 15°C, even with warmer day temperatures. Light frosts will tend to scorch the plant tops, although the crowns can survive moderate frosts.

Soil Type

Verano Stylo grows on a wide range of soil types that are acid to alkaline in pH (pH 5.4 -8.0). They will grow on infertile, light textured soils through to moderately fertile loam soils, but are not suited to heavier textured clay soils. While Verano is tolerant to low soil phosphorus levels, significant responses have been recognized with applications of phosphorus and particularly sulphur. Although there is no trial data, it is thought that Verano has moderate tolerance to soil salinity compared to the old Townsville stylo.

Establishment

Like all of the stylos, Verano is relatively easy to establishing in either new or existing pastures.

Providing there is sufficient seed to soil contact and reasonable periods of exposure to moisture around the seed, germination will occur. This is particularly evident with the ENVIROGRO® pelleted seed, where the seed has been scarified and had the hard seediness removed from the seed.

Once the seed has germinated, the first 3-5 weeks of plant growth will be extremely slow as the plant develops a strong root system, at which point plant growth will accelerate. The stocking rate should be adjusted to suppress associated grass if it appears too competitive, especially early in the growing season. Heavy grazing of the Verano can take place in the first stages of flowering, which tends to encourage more dry matter production than if it is ungrazed. These plants will also tend to persist for the following year whereas ungrazed plants will tend to die out and have to shoot back from seed the following year.

Maintaining a suitable balance between grass and legume content is relatively easy to manage with the use of strategic fire and grazing management. On infertile, tropical acid soils, phosphorus fertiliser applications may also be necessary to maintain the desired balance.



agronomically modified pasture seeds

24 Tinaroo Creek Road | P.O. Box 1502
Mareeba QLD Australia 4880

Ph: +61 7 40862400 | Fax: +61 7 40922345 | Web: www.southedgeseeds.com.au | Email: sales@southedgeseeds.com.au