DASH PBR lablab (*Lablab purpureus*)

DASH lablab is a fast growing annual, tropical legume. This legume is renowned for high dry matter production. Suited to warmer environments it favours a wide range of soil types.

Advantages

- fast growing tropical legume
- ideal for grazing
- ideal for ley legume/cover crop
- high protein fodder (>22% CP)
- excellent water use efficiency
- very palatable
- large seed, easy sowing
- adapted to a wide range of soil types
- high salt tolerance
- tolerant of light frosts

Seeding rate

10 – 30 kg/ha

Growing

DASH lablab is a fast growing, annual tropical legume. It has a twinning/climbing growth habit, which can make it a good option for companion cropping. DASH is well suited to fattening cattle and lambs as well as dairy production. It recovers quickly after grazing and has growth into late autumn.

DASH has excellent water use efficiency, is drought tolerant and produces bulk rapidly. Compared to other lablabs DASH reaches flowering 30-40 days faster. Average yields of DASH are still being evaluated but early trials over dryland sites that received no in-crop rain are showing green fodder yields more than 15 t/ha and dry matter production in excess of 3 t/ha.

Peak dry matter production is reached 80 days after sowing. DASH lablab will fix large amounts of nitrogen if the seed is colonised with the correct bacteria.

Cultivation and planting

DASH lablab will start germinating when soil temperatures are at least 16°C and can be planted up to 10 cm seeding depth. Germination usually takes up to 7 days at this temperature with good moisture. Growth is maximised above 16°C and will slow as temperatures drop below this point. DASH lablab is tolerant of light frost.

General fertilisation guide

DASH lablab is a tropical legume so the seed should be treated with a suitable inoculant to ensure rhizobia is present for nodulation. Phosphorous, potassium, sulphur and other nutrients should be guided by local soil conditions. All fields vary in their fertiliser requirements so to ensure good fertility it is best to consult your local agronomist for further advice.

Forage quality

Typical crude protein levels are more than 22%.