

EPICA Rhodes grass (*Tetraploid type*)

EPICA is Selected Seeds newest release of Rhodes grass. EPICA was selected after identifying the need for a tetraploid type with high dry matter production.

Advantages

- excellent water use efficiency
- highly palatable
- no oxalate or prussic acid
- higher leaf to stem ratio than other tetraploids
- suited to silage, grazing and hay enterprises
- suited to a wide range of soil types
- 600 mm+
- high salt tolerance

Seeding rate

Dryland: 6 – 15 kg/ha

Irrigated: 20 – 35 kg/ha

Introduction

Being a tetraploid, EPICA has four chromosomes per plant cell compared to diploids which have two. Therefore, EPICA has excellent palatability, ultimately resulting in higher feed intake with crude protein levels in the 12-14% range and ME's of 10% where managed appropriately. EPICA goes into its reproductive phase when daylight length shortens and increases production in the warmer season the same as diploid types.

EPICA is suited to a wide range of soil types and applications such as grazing, silage and hay production.

The advantages of EPICA over diploids is evident along the coastline of Australia, due to growing habit and environmental conditions.

General fertilisation guide

Nitrogen requirement is 30 kg/ha per tonne of hay grown. Phosphorous, potassium and other elements should be guided by local soil conditions. All paddocks vary in fertilizer requirements. To ensure good fertility it is best to consult your local agronomist for further advice.

Pests and diseases

EPICA Rhodes grass has no specific pests and diseases.

Cutting

To maximize yield and ensure hay quality, cutting should occur when 10% of seed heads have emerged, with a minimum cutting height of four inches. Cutting at this height ensures plants stay in a vegetative state.

Days between cuts/grazing may be longer than diploid types, however the growing season is slightly longer compared with diploid Rhodes. Yields of up to two tonnes of DM/ha/cut are not uncommon.



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HEAD OFFICE & EXPORT
PO Box 210 / 11 Grevillea Street, Pittsworth Qld 4356
Phone 07 4693 1800

ROCKHAMPTON Phone 07 4927 1500
PERTH Phone 0447 846 777
TOLGA Phone 0457 504 564