# Gayanda

# **Blue Buffalo Grass**

### (Cenchrus ciliaris)

Blue buffalo is a grass that is adapted to warm, low rainfall areas in SA, having a relatively good drought resistance. It is widely adapted to soil types, except light sand, and prefers alkaline soils. It has very deep roots of up to 1 500 m and has rhizomes that allow it to produce more tillers. It is normally used for cattle but can also be utilized by sheep and horses or used for making hay.

### Establishment

- November, February and March are the best seeding months
- Rolling the soil is essential

### Soil preparation

- Reacts favourably when soils are loosened before the summer rains
- Heavy soils that crack during winter need less loosening than lighter soils
- Cultivation should not be done in winter, seeing that it can lead to dying off of the grass

### Utilization

- Grazing normally starts in November for mature Buffalo grass when the grass is 300 mm long
- It is best if the grass is either lightly or completely grazed down
- If not, the result would be a mix of new leaves and old stalks, reducing palatability
- It can be utilized as both a very quick rotation and a relative long grazing period
- At the beginning of summer, the grass grows quicker, making it more challenging to implement grazing systems
- It is recommended to make hay or be rested during winter
- Remove all the old material at the end of winter
- Keep it as leafy as possible

### <u>GAYANDA</u>

Fine, medium-short, tufted, non-rhizomatous type, to 90 cm tall (commonly 30-60 cm), mid-season flowering, suitable for light to medium textured soils. It has very good stock acceptance and is characterised by its dense tillers. It has a lower growth height than Molopo, making it a better option for sheep.



# Specifications



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