

Subtropical (warm season, C4) perennial grasses are traditionally grown in summer rainfall environments. However, they can be successfully grown in the Mediterranean environments due to a combination of drought tolerance and the mild winter conditions...

# Rhodes Grass

## Rhodes Grass (*Chloris gayana*)

- Good seed production
- Easy establishment
- Creeping growth habit



### Requirements and uses

- Not considered a high quality grass but is suited where ease of establishment is more important than good high quality production
- Good seed production, easy establishment, creeping growth habit
- Areas with relative low rainfall
- Adapted to most soil types
- pH-level of 5,5-7,0 (KCl)
- Utilized more for grazing than for hay

### Establishment

- October/November or February/March
- Do not plant/cover seed deeper than 25 mm

### Varieties

***Katambora***: A diploid, tufted grass. Leafy, densely growing, with long, relatively thin stolon's. Selected for drought tolerance and very rapid growth rates. Establishes and covers rapidly and persists well, even at low fertility. Katambora has high seed yield ability and is classified as a Nematode resistant type.

***Tolgar***: Tolgar is the first multi-use Rhodes Grass cultivar to be bred for amenity, revegetation and soil conservation purposes, as well as first class forage and hay production, maintaining drought tolerance but exhibiting an aggressive creeping growth habit rather than being erect. Tolgar\* has fine textured vegetative growth which is very palatable and is later flowering, giving it the ability to out-yield all other varieties of Rhodes Grass in the market, while being much more salt tolerant.

### Soil preparation

- Early preparation helps retain moisture
- Seedbed: clean, even, free of weeds and well rolled
- Many failures occur when seedbeds are too loose and powdery
- Rolling before and after sowing ensures good establishment
- Rhodes grass can be sown on dry soils where the soil is inclined to form a hard crust after rolling
- Subsequent rain will wet the seed for germination
- A light shower of rain followed by long dry period could result in poor establishment

### Specifications

Sowing rate (uncoated)	5 - 10 kg/ha
Sowing rate (coated)	12 - 20 kg/ha

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