Subtropical Grasses

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...

Bottle Brush Grass

Bottle Brush Grass (Antephora pubescens)

- Widely adapted to soils and climates
- Tolerates heat
- Easily established
- Very palatable to animals
- Less sensitive to low soil fertility
- Makes outstanding fodder

Requirements and uses

- Widely adapted to most soils and climates
- Tolerates heat, flourishes on sandy soils in areas with a rainfall of 350 mm and more
- Most important advantages – it is relatively easily established, very palatable to animals, less sensitive to low soil fertility
- Makes outstanding fodder
- Excellent drought tolerant

Variety

Wolff: Originates from Swartruggens, North West Province, South Africa. Selected from a commercial seed field of the “common” variety for a more uniform growth habit.

Establishment

- October – December
- Desirable to establish as late as March – due to reliable rainfall early Autumn
- Seeds are woolly – pelletisation needed
- Broadcast or drilling

Production potential

- Good utilisation potential compensates for relative low production potential
- Its potential – low cost grass for dry areas
- Achieves economic animal production at a semi extensive level

Utilisation

- Strict rotational grazing due to high palatability
- Alternatively – leave it during its growing season for utilisation during winter and early spring

Specifications
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sowing rate (uncoated)</th>
<th>3 - 5 kg/ha</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sowing rate (coated)</td>
<td>12 - 20 kg/ha</td>
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