

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...

# Bermuda Grass

## Bermuda Grass (*Cynodon dactylon*)

- Widely adapted to soils and climate.
- Palatable.
- High nutritive value when young.
- Excellent ground cover for soil conservation .
- Tolerant of heavy grazing.
- Makes useful hay and silage .
- Tolerant of salinity.
- Tolerant of flooding.



Predominantly used in permanent pastures for grazing or cut-and-carry, but can also provide useful stand over or deferred feed. It is valuable for soil conservation, as a turf, and as a cover crop in orchards.

### Strengths

- Widely adapted to soils and climate
- Palatable
- High nutritive value when young
- Excellent ground cover for soil conservation
- Tolerant of heavy grazing
- Makes useful hay and silage
- Tolerant of salinity
- Tolerant of flooding

### Establishment

Seed is best sown onto a very well prepared, fine, weed-free seedbed and rolled in. Seedlings usually root down quickly. Grows on a wide range of soils, but best in relatively fertile, well-drained soils. Adapted over a broad range of soil pH (4.5-8.5), but grows best when the pH is above 5.5. *Cynodon* also have good tolerance to saline soils.

### Utilization

Extremely tolerant of heavy grazing, but more productive if correctly managed. Regular grazing and nitrogen fertilisation are necessary to maintain quality. It is very palatable if kept short in growth and fertilized. A stubble height of 5-10 cm under grazing or cutting gives good regrowth and maintains sward density. Renovate by ploughing or discing when sod-bound.

## Specifications

Sowing rate (uncoated)

8 - 12 kg/ha

Sowing rate (coated)

20 kg/ha

## Subtropical Grasses

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