



Sava Snail Medic

Medicago scutellata

Selected from material introduced to Australia from the USSR in 1971, it is still widely grown in Australia due to its long term persistence. An early maturing and hard seeded snail medic suited to long term pasture or cropping rotation. It tolerates heavy grazing, has wide ranging resistance to insects and good tolerance of foliar diseases of medic. Sava grows well on most neutral to alkaline soil types. Readily grazed by sheep, Sava has a large pod and shows good regeneration following rainfall.

- Large seeded variety with good early vigour
- Good resistance to diseases
- Replaced by Silver Snail Medic

Seed agronomy table

Flowering	75 Days
Min Rainfall (mm)	350
Hard Seed Level	9
Waterlogging Tolerance	Fair
Seeding Rate	Kg/Ha

Dryland
High Rainfall / Irrigation

10-15
15-20

Hard Seed Level 1 = Least Hard 10 = Most Hard

Enterprises this seed is being used for

Sheep
Beef Cattle
Horse
Hay & Silage

Strengths

- Well adapted to alkaline, cracking clay soils.
- Useful in crop/pasture rotation systems.
- Vigorous seedlings and high DM production.
- Good tolerance to red legged earth mite.
- Less likelihood of bloat than with other medics.

Limitations

- Poor persistence in long term tropical grass pastures.
- Not adapted to soils with pH
- Regenerating seedlings can be a weed problem in winter crops.

Plant Description

Plant: Semi-erect to erect, self-regenerating, cool season annual legume, growing to 50cm tall.

Stems: Soft, semi-erect, branching and hairy.

Leaves: Comprise three elliptically shaped, hairless, leaflets (sometimes with short hairs on the upper surface, and short to longer hairs on the lower surface); 15 - 30 mm long, 7 - 20 mm wide; leaf margin serrated; purple flecking (generally sparse) in some cultivars.

Flowers: Yellow to orange yellow, about 10 mm wide, 1 - 3 in a cluster.

Pods: Large (13 mm), spineless, globe -shaped, comprising 5 - 6 coils; straw coloured to grey to dark grey when mature, containing 6 - 10 seeds.

Seeds: Yellow or yellow-brown, kidney shaped seed, 50,000 - 130,000 seeds/kg.

Pasture type and use

Generally winter growing annual ley legume in dryland cereal growing regions of southern and subtropical Australia, where it is grazed by livestock or cut for hay. It is suited for hay production because of its upright growth. It may be used as a legume component in permanent grass/legume pastures in the cooler subtropics.

Where it grows

Rainfall: Requires an annual rainfall of 300 - 700 mm.

Soils: Suited to neutral to alkaline medium loams to heavy clay soils; regenerates best on self-mulching soils.

Temperature: A winter/spring growing annual that can withstand low temperatures, although production is limited by frosts. More productive when sown in early autumn.

Establishment

Companion species: Often grown with winter cereals such as oats for grass/legume hay production; sown with other medics including barrel medic in the subtropics and gama medic in southern Australia. It regenerates later than barrel, strand and burr medics.

Sowing/planting rates as single species: 15 - 18 kg/ha. * ensure seed is Goldstrike treated.

Sowing/planting rates in mixtures: Sow at a rate depending on the proportion in the mix, but generally 3 - 4 kg/ha. * ensure seed is Goldstrike treated.

Sowing time: Early autumn to early winter.

Inoculation: GoldstrikeTreated. The use of Goldstrike XLR8 seed treatment is recommended to reduce damage from insects at seedling stages.

Fertiliser: Where soils are low in nutrients, particularly phosphorus (P) and/or sulphur (S), it would be beneficial to apply 10 - 15 kg P and 10 kg S/ha annually, and copper (Cu), zinc (Zn) and molybdenum (Mo) if they are deficient. Soil tests will determine the need and appropriate rates. In permanent pasture, fertilise according to deficiencies identified in soil tests.

Management

Maintenance fertiliser: Snail medic is generally grown in rotation with crops. If the soils are deficient, particularly in P and S, the crops are fertilised accordingly. In a rotation system,

there should be sufficient residual fertiliser for good medic production. Soil tests will determine the need and appropriate fertiliser rates.

Grazing/cutting: In the establishment year, delay grazing until plants are well established. Graze leniently until flowering then remove stock to maximise seed set. Rotationally graze in following years. Snail medic is susceptible to heavy grazing. Pods may be eaten by sheep grazing the pasture during the summer and on soils that are not self-mulching, this may reduce the seed reserve significantly.

Ability to spread: Small amounts of seed are spread in the dung following ingestion by livestock. Seed can also be spread through hay.

Weed potential: Low weed potential as snail medic is palatable and readily eaten by livestock, and is limited in its soil adaptation. Being a self regenerating annual with a staggered germination, it can be a weed of cereal and grain legume crops.

Major pests: Some tolerance to red legged earth mite, lucerne flea and spotted alfalfa aphid, but susceptible to blue green aphid.

Major diseases: Susceptible to root rot, alfalfa mosaic virus, and black stem fungus/phoma.

Herbicide susceptibility: Susceptible to residual herbicides from a cropping phase, particularly sulfonylurea on alkaline soils.

Animal production

Palatability: Readily eaten by livestock as green feed or hay.

Production potential: Live weight gain of 1 kg/day with cattle or 300 g/day with lambs can be expected.

Livestock disorders/toxicity: Occasionally red gut in sheep; can cause bloat in cattle, though with a lower probability than other medics.

International Contact

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Disclaimer: Pasture Genetics has taken all reasonable care in the preparation of this publication. The information contained is thought to be correct at the time of publication. Always seek professional advice from your local agronomist or Pasture Genetics representative prior to purchasing any products. Combined information provided courtesy of Pastures Australia and Pasture Genetics

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