



## Six Point Chicory – A persistent, high quality perennial herb

### WHAT IS CHICORY?

Chicory is a perennial herb and is a very drought tolerant option as a perennial pasture for temperate areas of Australia. Chicory possesses a very deep tap root which has been known to break mild hard pans and draw moisture from deep within the soil profile. This taproot allows it to hang on well and produce quality forage.

- 5 + year perennial option if managed correctly
- High nutrient and energy levels
- Tolerant of strong grazing pressure
- Out of season finishing option
- Tolerant of acid and alkaline soils.
- Tolerant of water logging
- Has parasite inhibiting properties.

### NUTRITIONAL QUALITIES

Chicory is known to reduce parasites in sheep and cattle which may be attributed to the condensed tannins within the plant. Chicory contains 'lactones and lactucin' which are alkaloids and in combination with chicory's tannin content makes forage chicory inhibiting towards parasites, namely worms. Chicory is known to contain between 10 – 35% crude protein and 95% digestibility. Chicory, when included in a mix with lucerne has

been known to alleviate red gut in lambs and to limit incidence of bloat in cattle.

### MANAGEMENT OF CHICORY

Chicory can be sown as a sole species as a specialist livestock finishing crop but in the southern temperate region it is more likely to be sown in a mix with grasses and clovers. Initially it was suggested to put chicory in a mix at 0.5 – 1kg/ha, however stands have thinned too quickly and it appeared chicory was not persistent enough for its considerable price tag. Through local trials we have found sowing rates from 2 – 5kg/ha significantly enhance production as well as long term persistence.

Chicory persists from the crown of the original plant but will also recruit from seed if allowed to run to head. The stand may need to be slashed or crash grazed in order to make the plant go from reproduction back into a vegetative phase.

Chicory will not grow as aggressively through winter but more than makes up for that through spring, summer and autumn.

### WEEDS

There are no registered broadleaf weed controls for chicory which can cause issues so it is imperative to make sure the site is well prepared in the years prior to sowing a stand of chicory. Local agronomists have found ways to keep stands clean of broadleaf weed however most recommendations are strictly off label and farmers using these methods do so at their own risk.

5 - 7 Alexander Avenue, Box 13, Naracoorte SA 5271

Phone 08 8762 1944 | Fax 08 8762 2639 | Email [admin@naracoorteseeds.com.au](mailto:admin@naracoorteseeds.com.au)