

Cropmark
Chico

Dependable Chicory



ROCKET FUEL FOR LIVESTOCK PERFORMANCE

DESCRIPTION

A high yielding, very high quality and leafy chicory showing fast establishment, rapid re-growth, strong insect resistance and good drought tolerance.

SUITABILITY/USE

Chico can be used as a specialist and flexible multi-graze summer forage crop for finishing stock, and maximizing milk production, or included as a component of pasture mixes. It is suited for use with sheep, cattle and deer, and for use throughout the country, but particularly in summer-dry regions as a summer safe forage.

BENEFITS

- Very high quality, high yielding summer forage crop
- High in metabolisable energy and minerals
- Very high livestock performance potential
- Improved drought tolerance due to one metre tap root
- Fast establishing and flexible grazing management
- Leafy, succulent and palatable (stock take to it readily)
- Tolerant of brassica insect pests

AGRONOMIC TRAITS

PERSISTENCE	STOCK PERFORMANCE POTENTIAL	SOWING RATE (kg/ha)
1-3 years *	9 **	6
DIAMONDBACK MOTH RESISTANCE	WINTER ACTIVITY	GROWTH PEAK
9 **	Moderate	Spring- Autumn

* Subject to management and climatic conditions

** 1= Susceptible 9 = Resistant



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PERFORMANCE

Higher stocking rate, higher liveweight gain, higher carcass weights.

Alliance ran two lamb live weight gain trials in Cust (harsh dryland site) and Gore, in conjunction with Cropmark. In the trials, stocking rate was adjusted based on feed on offer for each feed option, with the lambs fed ad-lib. **Chico had higher stocking rates, higher live weight gains, more lambs graded prime, with higher carcass weights.**

Alliance lamb live weight gain comparison trial - Gore, Feb/Mar 2011 (28 days)

	Old Pasture	New Pasture	Swedes	Chico
Stocking rate	16.7	33.3	8.3	37.5
Live weight gain (g/hd/day)	296	350	364	371
% of lambs 'Prime' (>44kg LW)	76%	80%	78%	84%

Alliance lamb live weight gain comparison trial - Cust, Feb - April 2011 (2 months)

	LWG (kg)	Av LWG (g/hd/day)	Carcass Wgt (kg)	Yield (%)
Chicory	8.6	157.1	20.4	50
Pasture	7.9	144.2	18	46
Rape	4.6	84.7	18.81	52

SOWING

Chico should be sown into a firm, moist seedbed to a depth of less than 10mm or broadcast.

For summer forage crops, sow Chico at rate of 6-8kgs/ha with the possible addition of 2-4kgs/ha of red or white clover. Alternatively, the inclusion of 1-2kgs/ha of Chico in permanent pasture mixes will provide a palatable, high quality addition to pasture, particularly over the summer period. An application of nitrogen will aid establishment and soil pH should be at least 5.5.

MANAGEMENT AND USE

Chicory can be sown as a specialist summer forage crop or incorporated into permanent pasture mixes. It is suited for cattle, deer and sheep. Rotational grazing with a grazing interval of 15-30 days or when the plant reaches 12-18 inches (30-40cm) height is recommended. To maintain forage quality and persistence, keep in a vegetative state over summer.

Where fed to dairy cattle, grazing should be restricted to no more than 3 hours per day as chicory can cause milk taint with prolonged grazing.

Distributor:

Naracoorte Seeds

Phone: 08 8762 1944

Email: admin@naracoorteseeds.com.au

www.naracoorteseeds.com.au

