Case Study
Crop converts challenges to cash

Lockyer Valley QLD farmer Reg Kluck says S&W Chomper delivered “well beyond expectations” on a block otherwise set to remain fallow to wait out the drought.

The 165t of forage sorghum hay was produced last year on a 10ha block in the most extreme conditions in memory.

“I am fourth generation on this land and we have never been this short of water” said Mr Kluck.

“With the dry continuing, we thought we’d give something new a go, to work with the conditions if it stayed that way. And it did”, he said.

“It was terribly hot, but the plant just didn’t seem to want to shoot to seed. We just continued to work with it to the end, taking cuts to deliver to market”.

Mr Kluck says he plans to plant Chomper again in the coming season, “maybe a bit thicker than the 15kg/ha we did last time”.

He also plans to chop the crop back into the soil after it’s final harvest of that season, and says he is now trialling other premium S&W seed varieties as a result of his success with Chomper.

“The volume and quality of the growth was fantastic”

Reg Kluck
Lockyer Valley, QLD
CHOMPER FORAGE SORGHUM

Product Guide

Benefits
- Dependable summer forage
- Good for spring to late summer planting
- Best for grazing hay, haylage, and greenchop
- Good leaf-to-stem ratio

Positioning/Management
Chomper is a versatile hybrid sorghum x sudangrass that can meet most summer forage needs. It is well suited for use as emergency feed. This hybrid is best used for grazing hay, haylage and greenchop. It can also be used as ground cover or a source of green manure as mulch or plough down. Chomper has a good leaf-to-stem ratio that helps provide good quality with proper management. Root crop growers note that Chomper suppresses nematode populations when incorporated as green manure.

Summer Annual Management
Planting Date: Late August through late January depending on latitude. Soil temperatures should be 14 degrees Celsius and rising. Planting too early can cause slow early growth and reduced population.

Planting Depth: 20 - 40mm deep depending on soil moisture.

Row Width: 70 - 300mm drilled rows for best quality.

Planting Method: Drill preferred.

Fertility
Nitrogen: 60 - 100 kg/ha and 50-70 kg/ha per cutting.
Phosphorus: 20 to 60 kg/ha, more if soil test indicates less than 30 kg/ha available.
Potassium: 40 to 80 kg/ha, more if soil test indicates less than 300 kg/ha.

Note: Fertilizer rates need to be determined in consultation with your agronomist and in conjunction with a recent soil test.

Yield
2 to 4 cuttings depending on planting date, management and growing season. 6 to 15 tonnes/ha dry matter (40 to 100 tonnes/ha green weight).

| Forage Yield Potential | 3 |
| Early Growth Rate | 2 |
| Regrowth | 2 |
| Average Plant Height | 1.5 to 2m |
| Standability | 4 |
| Drought Tolerance | 3 |
| Leafiness | 3 |
| Avg seeds/kg (x1000) | 30 |
| Prussic Acid (HCN) Potential | Low |

Principal Uses
- Hay 3
- Haylage 3
- Grazing / Pasture 2
- Greenchop 3

Grazing and Harvest Management
Cut or graze at 1 to 1.5m tall for best quality and yield. Cut 150-200mm above ground level for fastest regrowth. Condition with a crimper at a slight diagonal to speed drying and regrowth. Wilt to 50% to 60% moisture for storage in a bunker or concrete silo and 45% to 55% for a sealed storage system. Forage should be about 85% to 90% plant moisture at cutting. Chop at 10-20mm cutting length to improve packing.

Chomper should not be initially grazed until it reaches a minimum height of 1m tall.

Harvest Height
- Grazing 0.5 - 1m
- Hay / Haylage 1 - 1.5m
- Greenchop 1.2 - 1.8m

Footnotes: 1 - Numerical Rating: 1 to 9 (1 = Excellent, 5 = Average, 9 = Poor)

FAST SUMMER FORAGE

CHOMPER FORAGE SORGHUM

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CHOMPER SEED COMPANY
swseedco.com.au