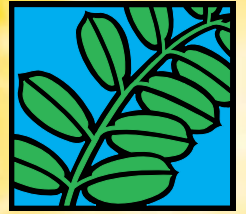


# Pasture Update



## EBONY COWPEAS

## Looking for an alternative N source?

With increasing input costs, especially fuel and fertilizer, it is important to choose your summer pastures wisely. Ebony cowpeas and Ebony combination crops are ideal for producing high quality summer feed. Ebony is extremely versatile and provides good grazing, hay and silage options for producers. As part of a crop rotation, Ebony can help improve soil condition and structure, and fix nitrogen from the atmosphere reducing input costs.



## Summer Legumes Make \$ense

- ✓ High quality feed; typically 9-11 MJ metabolizable energy and 18-20% crude protein, finishes stock, doesn't just feed them
- ✓ High yield; typically 4-7 t DM/ha and up to 10 tonnes under irrigation
- ✓ Safe grazing; Low bloat risk and nil prussic acid, can safely graze stressed crop
- ✓ Drought tolerant; will chase moisture with a robust root system
- ✓ Added nitrogen; typically provides 80-140 kg N/ha (equivalent to 160-280 kg urea/ha) and residual soil nitrogen for subsequent crops.
- ✓ Cropping benefits; trials show 27-47% increased grain yield from subsequent crops.

## EBONY COWPEAS

## Combination Crops

### COMBINATION CROPS -

Planting Ebony cowpea with sorghum or millet as a combination crop can add some real benefits, adding nitrogen to the system for increased yield, while also providing a more balanced ration for grazing stock, and adding quality to hay and silage cuts through increased protein content.

*Planting rates for the components of a combination crop should be 50-60% of the recommended rates for the individual varieties.*





## EBONY PR COWPEAS

The only variety with dual strain *Phytophthora* resistance.

In addition to this Ebony PR offers other benefits over other summer forages such as:

- Fast establishment and speed to grazing
- Increased dry matter production
- Improved return post-grazing
- Ability to re-grow post cutting for hay or silage
- Long production season = more feed
- Multigrazing
- Phytophthora - dual resistance

Ebony PR can be also sown into heavier soil types providing an alternative to Lablab



## EBONY COWPEAS

## FACT SHEET

<b>SOWING WINDOW</b>	Forage – late September to early January. Earlier sowings produce the most feed.
<b>MINIMUM SOIL TEMP</b>	16 - 18°C and rising
<b>SOWING RATE</b>	15 - 35kg/ha Consider higher sowing rates in good conditions
<b>INNOCULATION</b>	Inoculate seed prior to sowing with a group 1 inoculant
<b>ESTABLISHMENT AIM</b>	90,000 – 130,000 plants/ha.
<b>TOLERANCE OF HOT DRY WEATHER</b>	Ebony has good drought tolerance. Good tolerance to periods of heat and moisture stress. Best under warm, humid conditions, with temperatures between 20°C and 30°C.
<b>GRAZING VALUE OF GREEN CROP</b>	Ebony is suitable for repeated grazing with rapid recovery. Good finishing feed. Low bloat risk. Cowpea's have been known to cause photosensitivity in young sheep.
<b>GREEN MANURE</b>	Excellent rotation crop with cereal/sugar cane
<b>HAY VALUE</b>	Excellent quality hay. Will not recover after being cut low.
<b>SILAGE VALUE</b>	Good quality silage. If using only Cowpeas for silage, cut and wilt the crop to 30 to 35 per cent dry matter before harvesting to increase soluble sugars. Best mixed with millet or forage sorghum for increased bulk.
<b>HERBICIDES FOR GRASS &amp; BROADLEAF WEEDS</b>	Trifluralin & Pendimethalin are registered for use to control seedling grass weeds and a number of broadleaf species.
<b>SUITABILITY TO NO-TILL</b>	Good depending on weed spectrum.

