



# *Gorst Rural*

2025 SPRING  
**SOWING GUIDE**



# SPRING SOWING GUIDE 2025

**Spring-sown grazing crops offer high-quality feed during spring and summer when winter pastures are less productive, making them an excellent option for the Western Districts.**

**Table 1** Indicative nutritional values of spring sown pastures and fodder crops.

Forage	ME (MJ/kg)	CP (%)	DM (%)	NDF (%)	Potential Average Gain / Lamb / Day
Lucerne	11	30	24	30	170-300g
Forage Brassica	11.5	17	14	25	120-250g
Chicory	11.7	12	16	17	190-370g

## SCENARIO 1 | FINISHING LAMBS ON LUCERNE

**Benefits:** High protein and quality feed source to finish lambs on a six-week cycle.

Lambs graze lucerne sown over two 25ha paddocks, starting at 35kg and grazing from 2000kgDM/ha to 1000kgDM/ha over 10 days per paddock with grain support. After grazing, lucerne rests for 6 weeks before the next mob, allowing for 4-5 grazings per year.

Potential return = \$3299/ha per grazing cycle (minus input costs) (data on file)

## SCENARIO 2 | LUCERNE HAY

**Benefits:** Replenish hay stores, produce high protein and quality hay.

Potential return = \$3000/ha (minus input costs) (data on file)

## SCENARIO 3 | FINISHING LAMBS ON CHICORY

**Benefits:** High quality feed to finish lambs with lower health associated risks

Chicory is sown in two 25ha paddocks. Lambs enter at 35kg, graze from 3500kgDM/ha to 1500kgDM/ha over 10 days per paddock with grain support, then chicory rests for 4 weeks before the next mob.

Potential return = \$5181/ha per grazing cycle (minus input costs) (data on file)



## GORST RURAL

# LUCERNE VARIETIES 2025

Lucerne is a highly palatable, nutritious feed that thrives in warmer seasons when other pastures slow down. It's among the most versatile pasture options, offering:

- High drought tolerance due to deep rooting
- Nitrogen fixation for soil improvement
- Weed and disease break benefits
- Protein flush prior to joining

Lucerne can function as a long-term pasture (5+ years), a 2-3-year break crop, or a dedicated hay enterprise. It can be complemented with perennial or short-term grasses.

## FERTILITY

Lucerne establishment success depends heavily on preparation, especially for long-term stands.

Consider:

- High calcium demand and sensitivity to aluminium toxicity → Apply lime to correct both
- MAP or DAP at sowing (75-100 kg/ha)
- Avoid excess nitrogen during establishment → Promotes good nodulation
- Ongoing nutrient replacement is crucial due to high removal rates (especially in hay systems). Use hay booster fertilisers post-cut or during spring growth.

### Nutrien Removal Rates for Lucerne Hay T/DM per Ha

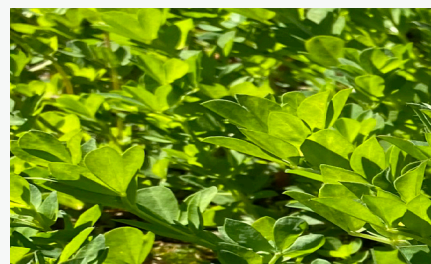
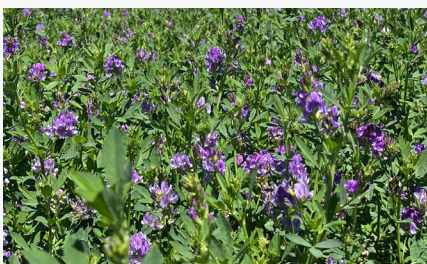
N	P	K	S	Ca	Mg	Zn	Cu	B	Mn	Fe
20-30kg	2-3kg	15-20kg	2-4kg	10-17kg	2-4kg	20-50g	5-10g	25-40g	35-50g	50-150g

When sowing lucerne, consider the following:

Soil Temp	Sowing Depth	Sowing Window	Grazing Timing	Required Annual Rainfall	Important Notes
>12°C	10 - 15mm	Late Aug - Early Oct	10 - 12 weeks or at 10% flower.	350mm<	Lucerne seedlings are sensitive to frost. Use Rollers when sowing if seed bed is fluffy and cloddy. Needs mositure.

## LUCERNE SOWING RATES

- Up to 600mm – 8-10kg per ha
- 600 plus – 10-15kg per ha
- Irrigation – 20-25kg per ha
- Sowing rate is proportional to plants per sq metre



## GRAZING MANAGEMENT

- Ideally grazed at 5% flowering (approx. 2t/ha DM) or when plant purples at base.
- Lucerne is better rotationally grazed, and stock removed with 1t/ha DM residual.
- Care should be taken introducing stock to new lucerne, consider supplements, hay and run-off areas.
- High grazing pressure recommended to reduce health issues and drops in performance.

### SARDI 7 SERIES 2

A premium lucerne variety with improved acid tolerance and performance in cold wet environments. A high yielding variety used for both grazing and hay with great persistence. High quality management systems will benefit greatly from this variety and will get long term use out of the SARDI 7 Series 2.

### SARDI-GRAZER: (ORDER ONLY)

A hardy lucerne variety bred to be the most grazing tolerant and persistent in all grazing environments. Easier management options especially in larger paddocks. Its persistence under heaving grazing is highly regarded.

### GORST 7

A high quality, cost effective lucerne blend to provide a short-medium term feed/hay ideal for the Western Districts.

## GORST SPRING FORAGE OPTIONS

Spring forages offer high production and feed value, providing multiple grazings through spring and summer. With various species available, they suit different systems and are useful for disease breaks and pasture preparation.

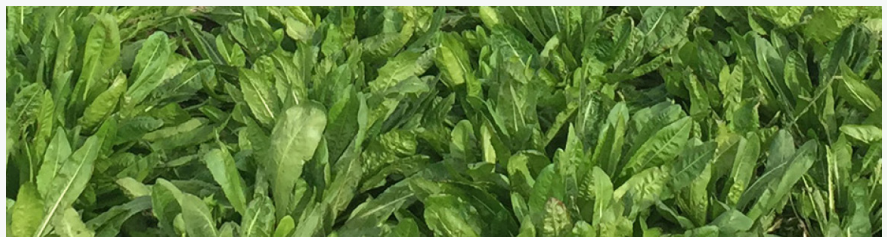
## ESTABLISHMENT & NUTRITION

Input	Product	Rate
At sowing	MAP / DAP	75-100 kg/ha
Early growth	Urea	80-100 kg/ha
After grazing	Top-up N & K	As needed

## SOWING PREPARATION

To give your spring forage the best chance of establishment and persistence there are a list of considerations needed for a successful spring forage.

1. Paddock selection
2. Soil testing
3. Soil fertility
4. Weed control
5. Insect and pet control
6. Seedbed preparation



## GORST RURAL

# BRASSICA VARIETIES 2025

Brassicas are a high input, high output fast spring and summer feed that have different purposes and benefits to suit your system. Below are the varieties that Gorst Rural will provide.

Variety	Type	Sowing Rate	Sowing Window	Grazing Window	Weeks until 1st Graze	Notes
Mainstar	Forage Brassica	3 - 4 kg / ha	Mid Sep - Dec	Nov - April	10 - 12 weeks	Premium Rape, highly palatable best production and excellent regrowth potential.
Pallaton Raphno	Hybrid Brassica	8 kg / ha	Sep - Dec	Dec - April	8 weeks	Persistent under multiple grazings and is highly palatable to stock
Leafmore	Forage Brassica	3 - 4 kg / ha	Aug - Nov	Dec - April	8 - 10 weeks	High forage quality, good leaf to stem ratio and more flexible sowing times.
Winfred	Forage Brassica	3 - 4 kg / ha	Aug - Nov	Dec - April	10 - 12 weeks	Good establishment with high yields. More flexible sowing times.
MPT Turnips	Turnip	2 - 2.5 kg / ha	Aug - Nov	Feb - April	10 - 12 weeks	Low cost, 1 good graze.
Tillage Radish	Brassica	5 - 8 kg / ha	Aug - Dec	Nov - April	5 - 6 weeks	Very palatable feed. Suits cattle and sheep. Deep tap root improves soils. Quick maturity feed.
Falcon	Leafy Turnip	4 - 5 kg / ha	Aug - Dec	Dec - June	6 - 8 weeks	Sow early, quick maturity feed.
970CL	Winter Canola	3 - 4 kg / ha	Oct - Nov	Dec - July	10 - 12 weeks	Multi-purpose crop. Graze then allow it to go to grain the following spring.
Captain CL	Winter Canola	3 - 4 kg / ha	Oct - Nov	Dec - July	10 - 12 weeks	

## HERBS

Forage herbs are a great alternative to brassicas for spring and summer feed. They will require the same preparation and considerations as your Brassica's and can be sown in straight or in pasture mixes.

### PLANTAIN: CAPTAIN

Plantain is a palatable, digestible option that supports animal health and persistence up to 2-3 years. It has good performance in wet acidic soils.

Sowing Rate: Straight	Sowing Window	Grazing Window	Grazing Management
4-6kg/ha	Sep - Nov	Jan - Aug	Graze to 10-12cm tall. 5cm residual with 4-week recovery period.

### CHICORY: COMMANDER

Chicory offers high-quality, mineral-rich forage with strong lamb growth rates. They have great pest tolerance (e.g. Diamond Back Moth) and limited animal health issues.

Sowing Rate: Straight	Sowing Timing	Grazing Timing	Grazing Management
4-6kg/ha	Sep - Nov	Dec - June	Graze to 30-50cm tall. 5cm residual with 4-week recovery period.

# OTHER FORAGE OPTIONS 2025

Other Forage are available for suited systems and with the same principles as your more common forage options.

**Note: Sowing of both Millet and Sorghum need temperature to be 16°C and rising for germination**

## MILLET: SHIROHIE

Millet is a cheap sheep and young stock feed that is fast to get going and best suited in lighter soil.

Sowing Rate: Straight	Sowing Timing	Grazing Timing
10-15kg/ha	Nov - Dec	Feb - April

## SORGHUM: NUDAN (ORDER ONLY)

Good hay producer with good recovery post cut or graze in tough soil conditions.

Sowing Rate: Straight	Sowing Timing	Grazing Timing
10-15kg/ha	Nov	Feb - April

## SORGHUM: SSS

Sweet Sudan x Sudan Grass forage sorghum with fine stems. Quick regrowth and potential of multiple grazings. Lower prussic acid levels and highly palatable. Graze at 50-80cm high

Sowing Rate: Straight	Sowing Timing	Grazing Timing
5-10kg/ha	Mid Nov - Dec	Feb - April

## MIXES

At Gorst Rural, we understand the diverse needs of farmers and the importance of timely sowing. That's why we offer same day custom mixing for spring sown fodder crops and forage brassicas, ensuring you get the ideal blend tailored to your requirements. With a range of varieties available, our Seed Manager, Ryan, can create your individual pasture and forage mixes to suit your sowing schedule, all ready for you when you need the seed. **All seed will be coated and treated with Gaucho ready for immediate use unless otherwise requested.**

# LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION 2025

## LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

To further support your farming operations, Gorst Rural has a dedicated livestock production team on hand to provide expert advice on animal production which includes health, nutrition, and disease management. **Whether you're seeking guidance on optimising animal performance or implementing preventative strategies, our specialists are committed to helping you achieve the best outcomes for your livestock.**

Potential Health Issue	Grazing	Description	Preventative Actions
Pulyp Kidney	Lucerne Forage Brassicas Herbs	Sudden change in diet causes the rumen environment to change, favouring the bacteria that produces the toxin.	Booster vaccine if stock have not been vaccinated within last 3 months.
Bloat	Lucerne Forage Brassicas	Rapid passage through the rumen may result in high levels of fermentation, producing a methane gas build up.	Avoid grazing immature stands. Ensure stock are not hungry before releasing onto forage.
Acidosis & Laminitis	Lucerne	Rapidly growing forages may be high in sugar and low in effective fibre causing a change in pH in the rumen. It may also increase blood flow and pressure leading to blood vessel damage and swelling in the hooves.	Provide roughage to stimulate saliva production (natural buffer). Ensure stock are not hungry before introducing to forage. Gradual introduction to forage.
Red Gut		Rapid gut flow may cause bowel twisting or displacement.	Provide roughage. ADE injection.
Scouring		May be many causative factors such as acidosis, low fibre, or excess protein in diet.	Provide roughage.
Excess Protein		Requires additional energy to excrete.	Provide roughage and/or concentrates to balance intake.
Grass Tetany		Lucerne is a good source of magnesium, however excess potassium may decrease its availability. High levels of nitrogen may also impair availability.	Provide salt and magnesium lick. Sodium and carbohydrates increase availability of magnesium.
Vitamin/Mineral Deficiencies		Lucerne may be low in sodium and cobalt.	Provide salt lick. Provide B12 injection, where appropriate.
Nitrate Poisoning		Forage Brassicas Herbs	Plants are naturally high in nitrates particularly when flowering or regrowth. Risk is heightened if other predisposing factors are present.
Polioencephalomalacia (PEM)	Forage Brassicas	Deficiency of thiamine (B1) or excess sulphur (brassicas are high in sulphur) causing the destruction of brain cells and swelling of the brain.	Provide roughage. Gradual introduction to forage. Mixed swards may alleviate risk. B1 injection.
Photosensitisation		Interaction of photodynamic compounds found in the plant and sunlight that causes skin damage.	Avoid grazing immature brassicas. Gradual introduction to forage.
Goitre		Forage brassicas can be low in iodine and goiter may occur in pregnant stock experiencing iodine deficiency.	Provide iodine lick.

# Gorst Rural

## GORST RURAL FIELD SERVICES TEAM

### AGRONOMISTS

Cam Conboy - 0418 655137  
Alex Prince - 0436 331535  
Sonia Marquardt - 0436 440141  
Grace Abela - 0477 063938  
Simon Wilson - 0429 337610  
Eddie Holt Fanning - 0447 035970

### LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

Robbie Neale - 0428 681300  
Sarah Kelly - 0407 922593

### SEED MANAGER

Ryan Townsend - 0408 209031

## BRANCHES

### LAKE BOLAC - 03 5350 2440

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### TATYOON - 03 5354 0585

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### SKIPTON - 03 5340 2262

4450 Glenelg Hwy, Skipton VIC 3361

### WILLAURA - 03 5354 1251

30 Main Rd, Willaura VIC 3379

### DERRINALLUM - 03 5597 6668

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### LISMORE - 03 5597 6668

135 High Street, Lismore VIC 3324



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