

SUB-TROPICAL GRASSES

Gatton Panic Grass

Deep rooted and drought persistent

Megathyrsus maximus

Gatton is a very popular perennial grass which is very persistent and has increased productivity in areas with summer rainfall. Gatton has a broader longer leaf and better palatability than green panic. Gatton Panic is tolerant to shade. Suited to well drained soils but will perform on other soils with good fertility. Responds quickly after rain. Does not tolerate waterlogging. Sensitive to frost. Coated and treated with Gaucho.



ABOUT THIS VARIETY

Gatton Panic Grass is a deep-rooted bunch grass that is a useful addition to Rhodes grasses in mixtures, and has some tolerance to dryer conditions once established. Gatton Panic is similar to Green Panic and has broader, darker green leaves than Bambatsi Panic. It is more robust than either Bambatsi or Petrie grass.

Gatton Panic is efficient in that more of the surplus carbohydrates accumulate in the upper part of the plant where it can be eaten. The root system is concentrated in the upper layers of the soil, which assists with rapid response to light showers.

Gatton Panic is a medium height botanical variety of Guinea Grass. It was first introduced to Queensland from Africa and its obvious quality quickly led to its sowing throughout Queensland and other states.

QUICK FACTS

-  **TYPE & PERSISTENCY**
Perennial
-  **MIN RAINFALL**
300 mm+
-  **SOIL & PH**
Soil range: Light sand to Loam ·
pH 5+ (CaCl₂)
-  **SOWING RATE**
4-8 kg/ha General
-  **TOLERANCES**
Mild Drought
-  **END USE**
Grazing
-  **GROWTH SEASON**
Summer-active

KEY ATTRIBUTES

- ✓ Very persistent, deep-rooted bunch grass
- ✓ Tolerant to shade
- ✓ Withstands reasonable grazing pressure
- ✓ Broader, longer leaf and better palatability than green panic
- ✓ Quick to respond after rain
- ✓ Useful addition to Rhodes grasses in mixtures

PLANTING & GRAZING NOTES

Gatton Panic will establish more easily than other panic grasses and can give very good first year production, however like other sub-tropical species it requires careful management over the first summer to ensure adequate plant numbers are retained into the following year. It should be sown in conjunction with other sub-tropical grasses as it may be difficult to establish sufficient plant numbers. Being a deep-rooted plant Gatton Panic can withstand reasonable grazing pressure, however it should be rotationally grazed to achieve the best production. It is recommended to graze after 8 to 10 months or when plants are mature, i.e. becoming reproductive. If desired broadcast/sow any additional legumes in the first autumn after grazing, then re-introduce livestock to get seed to soil contact. Graze at 25 to 30cm and leave a residue of 12 to 15cm. Do not overgraze over summer. Horses: panic grasses contain oxalate, which can cause big head (calcium deficiency) in horses grazing them for long periods; seek advice from a vet or equine nutritionist on calcium supplementation.

STAND LIFE

Requires good soil nutrition to persist on lighter soil types, and careful management over the first summer to ensure adequate plant numbers are retained into the following year.

HOW IT'S SOLD

FORM	PACK
Coated	25 kg