FORAGE & GRAIN CROPS

Saia Oats

Fast establishing fodder crop with high feed value

Avena strigosa

Saia oats are a tall black seeded grazing oat with a fine stem. It is a fast-establishing autumn-spring growing fodder crop with high feed values and will provide good quality quick feed for hay and silage. It has a high leaf to stem ratio. Saia grows in a wide range of soil types and has a good tolerance of acid soils. Pastures rebound well after grazing.



ABOUT THIS VARIETY

Saia is a tufted annual that grows to nearly 2m tall. It is a late maturing variety, sown in autumn for winter bulk, and its high leaf to stem ratio makes it good for grazing, silage and hay production.

It is used in cover crop situations and as forage for sheep, beef cattle and horses, and for hay and silage. It has readily acceptable palatability. It is often used to provide weed control and soil preparation prior to renovating with perennial pasture, and is robust so often used as a pioneer crop on new land. It can produce up to 7 t DM/ha by spring where moisture is available and soil fertility is good.

QUICK FACTS

TYPE & PERSISTENCY
Annual

MIN RAINFALL
350 mm+

SOWING RATE
60–100 kg/ha Monoculture, 15–50 kg/ha In a mix

TOLERANCES
Low pH

END USE
Grazing, Hay, Silage, Cover crop

LIVESTOCK
Beef, Sheep, Equine

KEY ATTRIBUTES

- Fine stem with a high leaf to stem ratio
- Good tolerance of acid soils
- Robust, often used as a pioneer crop on new land
- Good cover crop option
- Pasture rebounds well after grazing
- Winter feed value typically 70% digestibility, 7-8% crude protein

PLANTING & GRAZING NOTES

Sow late summer/early autumn for winter bulk. Soils should be well drained. Sow between soil temperatures of 12˚C to 25˚C into a cultivated seedbed to a depth of 35-70 mm. Can be sown dry (sow >50 mm). Fertiliser: sow with 10 kg P/ha; if using MAP/DAP sow separately from the seed. Maintenance fertiliser: 35-70 kg N/ha; ensure P, K, S and Zn are adequate. Graze prior to stem elongation. Strip graze along a long front to minimize trampling losses. Leave 12 cm residues/lowest stem node. Repeat grazing after a month's recovery. Companion species: clovers, peas, vetch, medics and annual ryegrass. Susceptible to pugging; avoid grazing if waterlogged – regrowth will be compromised. Livestock toxicity: young plants can accumulate a high level of nitrates and lead to nitrite poisoning, especially in cattle. Slow growth, hot dry conditions or frost/hail damage can elevate nitrate level.

DISEASE & PEST RESISTANCE

Major diseases: leaf rust, stem rust, Septoria blotch, bacterial blight, barley yellow dwarf virus, halo blight, stripe blight, powdery mildew. Major pests: cereal cyst nematode, stem nematode, red legged earth mite, snails, cereal aphis, cutworms, webworm, lucerne flea, army worm, Bryobia mite, wingless grasshoppers and Australian plague locust.

STAND LIFE

Annual. Regenerates from self-sown seed; plants can regenerate for a season or two.

HOW IT'S SOLD

FORM	PACK
Bare	25 kg