FORAGE & GRAIN CROPS

Shirohie Millet

Fast growing crop for summer rainfall events

Echinochloa esculenta

Sow when soil temperatures exceed 14˚C. Should not be grazed until plants are well anchored, 20-30cm in plant height. Adequate fertiliser should be applied after each grazing. Has some salt tolerance but not frost tolerant. Fast growing, high production.



QUICK FACTS

TYPE & PERSISTENCY
Annual

MIN RAINFALL
300 mm+

SOIL & PH
Soil range: Sand to Heavy · pH 5+ ($CaCl_2$)

SOWING RATE
10–15 kg/ha General

TOLERANCES
Mild Salinity

END USE
Grazing, Hay, Silage

LIVESTOCK
Beef, Sheep

ABOUT THIS VARIETY

Shirohie Millet is the most commonly available variety with improved vigour and recovery from grazing over the older Japanese variety.

The main advantage of the temperate millets is their ability to be sown early when soil temperatures are 14˚C and rising, providing the opportunity to produce earlier feed ahead of alternate options like sorghum, and it can be grazed as early as 6 weeks from emergence. High quality, safe feed for grazing, silage or hay, it will grow into late summer/early autumn but can run to head under stress or high temperatures which can reduce feed quality. High quality feed is produced, but total yield over the season will be much lower than that of forage sorghum. Depending on the timing of grazing and growing conditions, recovery from grazing will be slower than that of forage sorghum.

A robust, multi stemmed leafy annual grass with upright stems 150-300 cm, it exhibits broad green leaves with a strong upright growth habit. It is not tolerant to waterlogging or frost, responds well to fertiliser and is adapted to fertile loams and heavy cracking clays. It can be sown on lighter soils than forage sorghums, but supporting nutrition and good grazing management are required to get optimum yields. There is no hydrocyanic acid (HCN) poisoning risk associated with temperate millets.

KEY ATTRIBUTES

- ✓ Fast growing, low cost short term summer crop
- ✓ Quality feed for cattle and sheep from about 6 weeks
- ✓ Safe to forage (non-toxic)
- ✓ Can be sown early
- ✓ Good regrowth after grazing with multiple cuttings
- ✓ For direct feeding, silage and hay

PLANTING & GRAZING NOTES

Sow when soil temperatures are 14˚C and above (spring/summer), with adequate soil moisture and the possibility of follow up rain. Sowing depth 3 - 4 cm and light roll after sowing. Fertilise to encourage germination and establishment: N30: P8: K30 + trace elements (kg per ha for a 2.5 t/ha crop). Once established, ensure plants are not prone to pulling to allow the root structure to establish a strong hold, then lightly graze at approximately 5 - 6 weeks, then 3 - 4 weeks subsequently depending on growth, or graze at 20 - 30 cm high for optimal feed quality but can be grazed up to 50cm. Rotate or strip graze to give pasture time to recover, regrow and store energy in the roots before the next grazing. Adequate fertiliser should be applied after each grazing.

STAND LIFE

Annual short term summer crop. It will grow into late summer/early autumn but can run to head under stress or high temperatures. Running to head in hot, dry weather can be minimised through grazing management.

HOW IT'S SOLD

FORM	PACK
Bare	25 kg

Certification: ASF Code of Practice, Certified Quality Assured Seed