

PASTURE ESTABLISHMENT

Peter Cregan,
Murray Riverina Institute of Higher Education
Wagga NSW

Pasture establishment is the most important factor determining the worth of a pasture. Extra care should be taken to ensure that pastures are given the best possible start. The following rules should be carefully followed.

1. Prepare good seed beds so that the seed is placed in contact

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with firm moist soil.

2. Use adequate viable seed to ensure strong competition for weeds and good pasture establishment.
3. Always use the recommended pasture varieties. These have been tested and proven to be most suitable to the particular conditions.
4. Sow pastures when conditions of temperature, moisture are optimum for the sown pasture species. Sow when weed competition is minimal.
5. Ensure that nutrition is optimum. A soil test will be a guide to determining the rates of fertilizer that should be used. Band placement of fertilizer will ensure that the nutrients are easily available to the young seedlings.
6. Ensure that legume seed is properly inoculated with the appropriate *Rhizobia*.
7. Use efficient sowing techniques to ensure that the seed is placed at the correct depth. The choice of machine is important.
8. Ensure that weed competition is minimised by using appropriate herbicides. Where pastures are sown with crops ensure that the crop sowing rate is not high enough to smother the pasture.
9. Control pests and apply the appropriate grazing management during the first year.