

# Howlong Cocksfoot

Pasture grass



500mm+



4.0–8.0<sub>CaCl</sub>



Most soil types



PBR

Howlong is an intermediate type cocksfoot selected for its finer, soft leaves and upright growing habit. Bred for Australian conditions, it boasts improved autumn and winter growth to provide plentiful feed. Howlong is a reliable performer and compatible with other pasture varieties making management easier.

## Key features

- Bred specifically for Australian conditions
- Fine leaves and tillers, less likely to form clumps
- Improved autumn & winter growth
- Compatible with other species
- A hardy all rounder

## Key benefits

- Able to produce quality feed in medium rainfall areas where other species may not be suitable
- Finer leaves mean it is less likely to form clumps, making the pasture more manageable for producers and more palatable for livestock
- Howlong can take some grazing in summer, where other pasture species may have shut down, providing vital summer feed options

## Agronomy and management

Cocksfoot is slower to establishment than ryegrass species as the seed is small and lightweight. Paddock preparation is extremely important to give Howlong the best chance at establishing a good level of ground cover. Any weedy winter grasses should be controlled prior to sowing, spray topping the spring prior to sowing is often an effective management strategy. Plants will benefit from a light grazing 6 – 8 months after an autumn sowing, provided the root system has developed adequately and plants are anchored to the ground and not easily pulled out. A light rotational graze will encourage root development and allow the stand to compete with any legume that may be sown as a companion species. Avoid using cocksfoot in water-logged areas – phalaris will be better suited in these instances.

Cocksfoot pastures being grazed by sheep should be rotated frequently so as not to allow close grazing to the crown of the plant. Over grazing in combination with moisture stress may result in the stand to significantly thin out, allowing weed invasion of your pasture.

Howlong being an intermediate cocksfoot will require some form of summer grazing pressure to be applied. This will ensure plants do not become tall and rank as the autumn period approaches. If plants are let to go rank quality of the pasture will significantly reduce.

## Suggested sowing rates

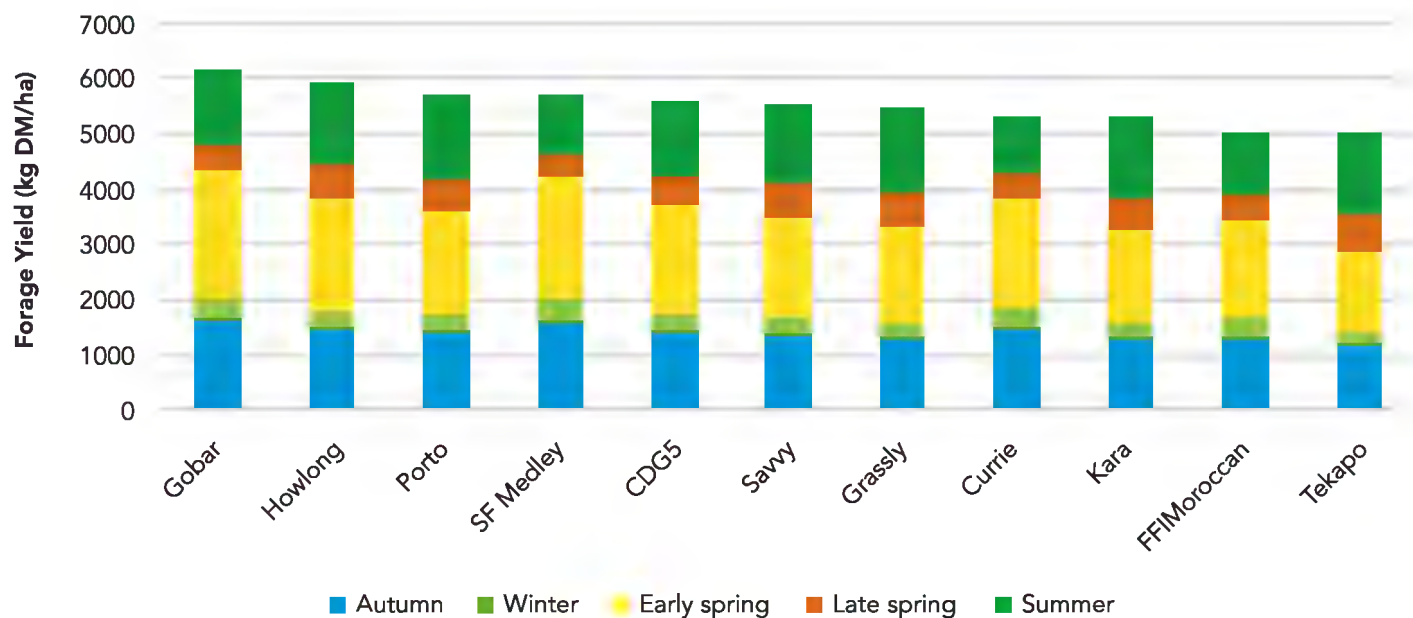
**Mix:** 2–4 kg/ha

**Dominant species:** 6–8 kg/ha

**Sowing depth:** 3–10mm

## Performance

**Howlong demonstrating excellent total yield compared to other cocksfoot varieties in 2013 Stockingbal MLA PTN trial**



**Figure 1:** Total forage yield (kg DM/ha) in seasonal splits of Howlong cocksfoot against other cocksfoot cultivars in a 2013 sown PTN Trial at Stockinbingal. For full dataset refer to MLA PTN website. These results were collected to the standards set by the Pasture Trial Network (PTN) and are based around the MLA Pasture Variety Trial Network. Use of this Data is subject to MLA's PTN website terms of use.

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