



Superstrike® coated seed recommended

USES:



**BEEF DAIRY SHEEP HAY SILAGE**



**SOWING RATE**



**RAINFALL / IRRIGATION**

## The first grazing tolerant lucerne for the Australian market

- A grazing tolerant lucerne that is semi-dormant
- Selected from long term Australian lucerne grazing trials

### Description

Stamina® GT6 was the first grazing tolerant lucerne variety to be released for Australian farmers. Extensively trialled under extreme grazing conditions, Stamina GT6 performed exceptionally well to give Australian farmers confidence that Stamina GT6 can perform under some of the harshest conditions.

Stamina GT6 offers real flexibility as a multi-purpose lucerne that handles prolonged periods of set stocking as well as the potential to produce excellent quality hay. It's a true all-rounder!

PGG Wrightson Seeds have developed two Stamina lucernes, Stamina GT6 and Stamina GT5. Our Stamina lucernes have forced a rethink on how lucerne is used by farmers in mixed farming zones.

The reality is that the demands of sheep grazing, such as set stocking for lengthy periods and hot dry seasons, are not conducive to lucerne persistence. The PGG Wrightson Seeds Stamina lucernes aim to change that.

Most growers require a longer term lucerne stand that is productive through the warmer months when quality feed is in short supply. In addition, they require a lucerne stand that tolerates the rigours of dryland sheep grazing for up to 10 years. Stamina GT6 and Stamina GT5 fulfill these criteria. Like all lucernes, Stamina GT6 and Stamina GT5 lucernes will persist and produce better if rotationally grazed. Once established, they tolerate continuous and close grazing better than most other lucerne varieties.

Stamina lucernes are also good companions for phalaris, winter-active tall fescues and sub and annual clovers, producing a robust year-round legume based pasture.

The Stamina lucernes have low broad crowns and naturally have high forage quality with fine stems and high leaf-to-stem ratio. Stamina lucernes are able to maintain this quality by remaining a dense, leafy stand rather than opening up and becoming stalky and weedy. Stamina lucernes are suitable for grazing, or production of quality hay.

**Grazing Management**

In the development and evaluation of Stamina GT6, it underwent a very tough protocol to establish grazing tolerance. While Stamina GT6 will survive better than most other lucernes if treated in less than ideal management for lucerne persistence, it is not recommended to treat it any differently to managing other lucerne stands.

Stamina GT6 should be grazed in a rotational grazing system. It is recommended that the rotation period is between 30 – 35 days following grazing during the growing period (rotation lengths may need to be extended during the cooler months due to slower growth).

When grazing lucerne, it is ideal to graze the plant down to 5cm in height and then have the stock taken out. This typical management will ensure a strong lucerne stand for many years which will make Stamina GT6 a very sound investment.

**Breeding**

Developing grazing tolerant lucernes for Australia’s dryland farms has taken nearly two decades and was a collaboration between PGG Wrightson Seeds and Alforex Seeds (formerly Cal/West Seeds) in the USA. The products were initially developed in the US after a 6 year screening programme in which elite breeding lines and successful commercial varieties were set stocked by both sheep and beef cattle for a period of 6-7 months per year. Paddocks were maintained at a constant vegetative height of 2-5cm throughout the grazing periods.

Further screening was conducted in Australia by PGG Wrightson Seeds who evaluated 24 advanced lines in trials that ran for 7 years. Plots were grazed for two 10 month periods at a stocking rate of 40 sheep/ha equivalent.

Lucerne varieties bearing the Stamina designation were selected as ‘best of the best’ in these ultra-rigorous evaluations. Today there are a number of seed companies claiming their lucernes are grazing tolerant; we encourage farmers to ask how they were developed, how they were tested and if they were evaluated according to the standard test protocols. Farmers who want persistent lucerne stands are advised to plant proven grazing tolerant (GT) varieties from PGG Wrightson Seeds.

2003 sown lucerne trial, Bendigo, VIC

Figure 1

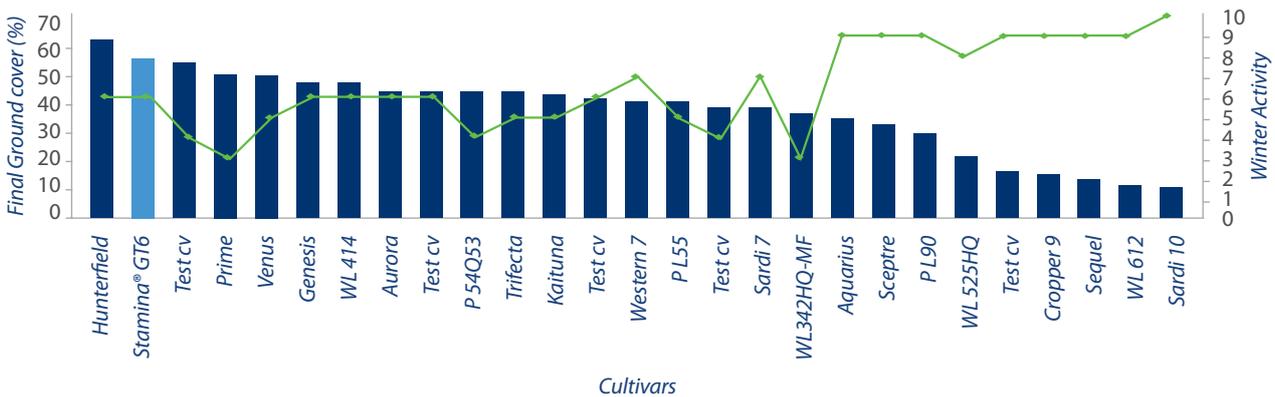


Figure 1 shows the final ground cover percentages (left axis), measured 24-April-2007 following 4 years of continuous grazing relative to the actual winter activity rating of the variety (right axis). LSD (0.05) = 13.5

**Pest and Disease Tolerance**

Like any other lucerne, Stamina® GT6 is susceptible to a number of pests such as Red Legged Earth Mite, Lucerne Flea and some Aphids. These pests can have devastating effects on lucerne at any stage of its life if not monitored and controlled. Regular monitoring is very important and if pests are present, speak to your local retail agronomist to find out the best method of control for the pest identified. When purchasing Stamina GT6 lucerne it is strongly recommended that you purchase it with Superstrike™ coating which will give some level of protection from some key pests for the first six weeks after sowing.

**Pest/Disease ratings:**

Poor weed control is one of the most common issues that can lead to poor lucerne establishment. Weed control must start the year prior to sowing the lucerne to ensure adequate time and opportunity to control any weeds that are present in the paddock. This should also reduce the need for post emergent herbicides to be used in the young lucerne crop as this can retard growth.

Pest and disease resistance

Figure 2

Spotted Alfalfa Aphid	Highly Resistant
Blue Green Aphid	Resistant
Phytophthora Root Rot	Resistant
Anthracnose	Highly Resistant
Stem Nematode	Highly Resistant
Highly Resistant . . . . .	>51%
Resistant . . . . .	31-50%
Moderate Resistance . . . . .	15-30%
Low Resistance . . . . .	6-14%
Susceptible . . . . .	0-5%

### Sowing Establishment

Stamina GT6 like all other lucerne is small seeded, so therefore it is important to ensure that the sowing of Stamina GT6 is done correctly to ensure the best results for establishment. There are some key fundamentals to get right when sowing lucerne including seedbed preparation, weed control, sowing depth and sowing technique. Following these key steps will help achieve a good establishment of lucerne.

#### SEED BED PREPARATION

Preparing the seedbed takes into consideration the soil type and cultivation of the soil to ensure the soil is fine. This will aid the seed to soil contact at the time of sowing as well as supporting good moisture infiltration around the seed either after a rainfall event or irrigation.

#### WEED CONTROL

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#### SOWING DEPTH

The sowing depth needs to be managed as lucerne is a small seed and therefore only needs to be sown at no more the 15mm deep. This will enable the lucerne to germinate and the seedlings to rise above the soil to begin photosynthesis.

#### SOWING TECHNIQUE

The sowing technique is the method of actually getting the seed into the soil. With so many different options for sowing equipment, it is important to understand the impact this can have when sowing lucerne. Accuracy of sowing rate, equipment condition (shears, knife points or discs) and final compaction (press wheels, harrows or tyre roller) are all important when looking to successfully establish lucerne.

### Learning - Stamina® GT6

For more information on how Stamina® GT6 can help work for you and your land you can access the following extra information from the Stamina® GT6 page at [pggwrightsonseeds.com.au](http://pggwrightsonseeds.com.au)

#### Research paper

Evaluation of grazing tolerant lucerne

#### Forage Focus

Understanding lucerne

### Stamina® GT6 - Fast Facts

<b>Class of Stock</b>	Dairy, Beef, Sheep	<b>Treatment recommended</b>	Superstrike®
<b>Sowing Rates</b>	5-25kg/ha	<b>Flower Heading Dates</b>	n/a
<b>When will feed be available</b>	Spring, Summer and Autumn	<b>Ploidy</b>	n/a
<b>How can it be used</b>	Grazing, Silage, Hay	<b>Endophyte</b>	n/a
<b>Rainfall guide</b>	Minimum 350mm rainfall per annum unless irrigated		

## LET'S GROW TOGETHER

Planning your forage and seed requirements in advance can make a big difference to your productivity. For over 75 years PGG Wrightson Seeds have been working with farmers to get the balance right.

**To discuss your growth plans call your Sales Agronomist now.**

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