

CARDILLO CENTRO

Centrosema pubescens

Cardillo Centro is a perennial, trailing-climbing legume that is licensed to Southedge Seeds under Plant Breeder's Rights. Although Cardillo Centro has been on the market for quite awhile, producers are only beginning to see its major benefits, and as grazing management practices improve there will be greater adoption of this species.

Checklist

- ✓ **Strong perennial**
- ✓ **Suited to medium fertility acid soils**
- ✓ **Superior cold tolerance compared with Common Centro**
- ✓ **Moderate drought tolerance**
- ✓ **Competes well with most tropical grass species**
- ✓ **Can withstand periods of heavy grazing**
- ✓ **Sowing Rate - 2-6 seeds/m² (1-3kg/ha) in a mixed pasture**

Environment

Cardillo Centro is a unique tropical legume in the fact that it will grow in both coastal tropical regions as well as cooler elevated tableland conditions. For optimum production annual summer dominated rainfall is needed to be greater than 1000mm.

Soil Type

Cardillo Centro will grow on a wide range of soil types from sandy loam to clay soils that have soil pH of 5 to 6.5. The soils need to be of reasonable fertility at least having reasonable phosphorus levels. On poorer soil types, applications of phosphorus, calcium and molybdenum may be required annually or biennially to ensure maximum production.

Establishment

Establishment of Cardillo Centro has been known to cause many issues. As a rule it is planted with highly competitive grasses which quite often smother out the establishing seedlings. One of the most successful methods of introducing Cardillo into established pasture systems is band seeding, using either a pasture renovator or a disc opener planting machine. A band of knockdown herbicide is sprayed over the row to reduce plant competition during establishment.

Traditionally, pure stands of Cardillo are never planted, as their main role is within grass pasture systems. For this reason

recommended sowing rates are traditionally quite low, 1-3kg/ha. Ideally, you would be looking to have 1-3 established plants per m² within a Signal Grass pasture.

Fertiliser management is also critical during the establishment stage and even once established, as an application of nitrogen based fertiliser will make the Cardillo lazy, and will not compete with grass species such as Signal Grass and Humidicola. Applying nitrogen fertiliser defeats the overall purpose of incorporating legumes into the system.

Picture: A Connor Shea Banded Seeder with disc coulter, tyne opener, press wheel and band sprayer used for planting Cardillo into Humidicola pastures.

