medic variety

HERALD(ϕ)

The aphid resistant replacement for Harbinger and Harbinger AR.

An excellent producer of herbage and seed out-yielding Harbinger AR by 14 and 20% respectively *(SARDI trials in 50 experiments over 8 seasons across the southern region.)*

Early maturing and ideally suited to the low rainfall, alkaline soil cereal/ livestock zone.

Easily identifiable with a prominent dark brown blotch leaf marker.

RAINFALL

Adapted to the 275-400mm rainfall regions throughout the southern wheat belt.

SOIL TYPE

Highly recommended for alkaline soil types ranging from loamy sands to loams where the $pH_{(H_2O)}$ exceeds 6.5. Herald is moderately susceptible to high levels of boron.

MATURITY

An early maturing variety which generally begins flowering 70-95 days after emergence and is able to continue flowering while conditions remain suitable.

REGENERATION

With 10-25% soft seeds, Herald regenerates well in the year after seed-set or after a cropping phase of up to three years, depending on soil seed reserves.

GRAZING

Once established, Herald persists well under grazing management which preserves growing points and promotes prostrate plant growth, leading to good ground cover. This highly nutritive pasture can be grazed in the first year of sowing, providing fresh feed in winter and spring and dry feed in the summer and autumn.

PESTS & DISEASE RESISTANCE

- Of the currently available low-rainfall medics, Herald offers the best levels of aphid resistance. It has good resistance to both spotted alfalfa and bluegreen aphid and moderate resistance to cowpea aphid.
- Like most other medics it is susceptible to redlegged earth mite, lucerne flea and sitona weevil.
- Herald is generally free of foliar disease but may occasionally be affected by *Phoma* black-stem fungus in under-grazed lush stands in wet seasons.
- Medics suffer from Rhizoctonia and are rated MS/MR for *Pratylenchus neglectus.*

Herald(ϕ) the aphid resistant high performing medic for low rainfall alkaline soils - bred by SARDI

SARDI

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

PASTURES GROUP

Pastures for stock, crop & country

Managing Herald® for production and persistence

ESTABLISHMENT

Establishes well if sown dry (from mid-April onwards) into cereal stubbles free of broadleaf weeds and with good weed control the previous year. Alternatively, sow into a fine, moist and weed free seedbed soon after the break of the season.

SEEDING RATE & SOWING

Sow at 3–10kg/ha, depending on the situation. Higher seeding rates will improve competition against weeds and allow for earlier grazing in the first year. Sow Herald at the lower rates if using in mixtures of varieties with different maturity, adaptation and hardseededness *(mixtures can help to overcome seasonal, soil and rotational variability).*

Aim for a sowing depth of 1-2cm and ensure good seed-soil contact by the use of press wheels or covering devices such as harrows or prickle chains.

INOCULATION

Inoculate seed with group **AL** rhizobium (**not** AM), unless the paddock has had a healthy stand of medic in the past two years. Inoculation is vital if the $pH_{(H_2O)}$ is under 7.0. Good nodulation is essential to maximise nitrogen fixation for the benefit of the following crop.

NUTRITION

Good phosphorus (**P**) and zinc (**Zn**) nutrition is critical for maximum medic growth and nitrogen fixation. Recent experiments at 15 low rainfall alkaline sites in SA and Victoria have found that addition of P (31 kgP/ha) and Zn (6.3 kgZn/ha) increased medic dry matter production by an average of 25% from 1640 kg/ha to 2040 kg/ha, (GRDC project UA345).

WEED CONTROL

Maximise seed-set in the establishment year by reducing weed competition as much as possible. Early removal of grasses with grass selective herbicides results in improved pasture growth and reduced carry-over of cereal root diseases (eg Take-all and CCN). Less selective means of weed control such as spray-grazing, winter-cleaning and spray-topping can be used to control weeds after the initial year, when medic density and soil seed reserves have been built-up. Medics are very sensitive to sulphonylurea herbicide residues and attention must be paid to plant-back periods for these chemicals, especially in low rainfall regions with alkaline soils.

PEST CONTROL

In the year of establishment especially, monitor for redlegged earth mite and lucerne flea damage, both at the seedling and flowering stage and spray as necessary.

GRAZING

establishment

Defer grazing after sowing until plants are well established and then only graze lightly until flowering. Remove stock until the stand has finished flowering and producing pods, to maximise seed-set. Carefully monitor summer grazing, especially in the first year, as over-grazing of pods will reduce future pasture regeneration.

regeneration

Initially defer grazing at the break of the season to maximise plant establishment. Then apply grazing pressure to control upright grasses and to encourage prostrate growth until ground cover is complete. Increase grazing pressure if necessary to prevent overly bulky pastures which are more susceptible to moisture stress and foliar fungal disease.

Ensure a good seed-set at least one year in four, to maintain adequate soil-seed reserves for maximum persistence, regeneration and production.

Available from your local farm store. For more information on other varieties and the SARDI Patures Group visit **www.sardi.sa.gov.au/pastures**

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