

SPINELESS BURR MEDIC

s a n t i a g o

Santiago (*Medicago polymorpha*) is a Spineless Burr Medic with prostrate to semi-erect growth habit. It has early to mid-season maturity with a very high level of hard seed compared to other Burr Medics. This provides Santiago with good persistence and it is well suited to long-term cropping rotations.

Santiago will provide good herbage production for low to medium rainfall areas on a wide range of slightly acidic to alkaline soils. It will provide an effective disease break, while providing high quality feed for either hay or grazing purposes, and is able to fix nitrogen which is valuable for subsequent crop rotations.

Santiago has poor tolerance to a wide range of insects, particularly Spotted Alfalfa Aphid. It has been superseded by Scimitar which has superior pest tolerance and herbage production.

CHECKLIST

- ✓ **Early to mid-season – later than Serena and Circle Valley**
- ✓ **Adaptable variety that grows on a range of soil types**
- ✓ **Very hard-seeded**
- ✓ **Susceptible to Blue-Green and Spotted Alfalfa Aphid**
- ✓ **Very sensitive to Boron**

RAINFALL

Santiago is suited to temperate areas receiving a total rainfall of 350–500mm.

SOIL TYPE

Santiago is suited to a wide range of soil types ranging from sandy loams to clay loams. It can tolerate slightly acidic soil types but prefers neutral to alkaline soils that range from pH 5.2–8.5 (CaCl₂). Spineless Burr Medic demonstrates a high waterlogging tolerance compared to other Annual Medic species.

INOCULANT

Apply Group AM Rhizobium to seed prior to sowing. Plant nodulation is extremely important for soils below pH 7.0 (CaCl₂). Inoculation is essential to ensure sufficient nodulation occurs and to maximise nitrogen fixation.

MATURITY

Santiago demonstrates early to mid-season maturity with 80–85 days to flower. This is approximately seven days earlier than Scimitar.

REGENERATION

Santiago is very hard-seeded (90–95%) compared to Scimitar (65–75% hard seed). This allows Santiago to build up a good reserve of seed in the soil over time, thus enhancing persistence, particularly in cereal rotations.

The levels of hard seed in the soil will soften over a 5–10 year period, which is an extremely important characteristic of Medic's ability to survive over a long period of time in marginal rainfall districts. However, this can limit the level of germination in the year after first sowing, as little of the hard seed has had sufficient time to break down.

GRAZING

During establishment, defer grazing until plants are well established, lightly graze prior to flowering and then remove stock to allow seed set. Summer grazing needs to be managed carefully in the first year as over grazing will reduce future regeneration.

Once established, Santiago persists well under rotational grazing, ensuring good early ground cover but also promoting prostrate plant growth. Santiago can be grazed in the first year of sowing, providing fresh feed in winter and spring, and dry feed in the summer and autumn.



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DISEASE RESISTANCE

Santiago is generally free of foliar diseases but can be affected by Black Stem Fungus (*Phoma spp.*) in under-grazed lush stands. Santiago, as other Medics, suffers from Rhizoctonia (*Rhizoctonia solani*).

PEST RESISTANCE

Santiago is susceptible to Blue-Green Aphid (*Acyrtosiphon kondoi*), Spotted Alfalfa Aphid (*Therioaphis trifolii*) and Cow Pea Aphid (*Aphis craccivora*). Like most other Medics, Santiago is also susceptible to Red Legged Earth Mite (*Halotydeus destructor*),

Lucerne Flea (*Sminthurus viridis*), Sitona Weevil (*Sitona discoidea*) and potentially Root Lesion Nematode (*Pratylenchus neglectus*). Appropriate control prior to sowing or soon after germination of these insects is required for successful establishment.

SOWING RATE

When sowing alone, to produce a dense stand, sow at a minimum of 4–10kg/ha. Higher sowing rates will improve competition against weeds and allows for earlier grazing in the first year of establishment. If used in mixtures sow at 1–4kg/ha.

For seed production it is suggested to sow Santiago at a rate of 10–14kg/ha.

Optimum time for sowing is early to late autumn after rainfall. Aim for a sowing depth of 1–2cm and ensure good seed-soil contact by the use of press wheels or covering devices.

Seedmark Exclusive Varieties

BISERRULA

Mauro

CLOVER

Arrowleaf

Cefalu

Zulu II

Balansa

Bolta

Frontier

Berseem

Elite II

Crimson

Blaza

Persian

Kyambro

Laser

Lightning

Morbulk

Nitro Plus

Subterranean

Antas

Campeda

Denmark

Gosse

Losa

Napier

Rosedale

York

White

Quest

Waverley

FORAGE

Woolly Pod Vetch

Capello

Haymaker

LUCERNE

Aquarius

Genesis

Sirosal

Venus

MEDIC

Barrel

Caliph

Jester

Burr

Scimitar

Hybrid

Toreador

PASTURE GRASS

Cocksfoot

Kasbah

Phalaris

Atlas PG

Australian II

Holdfast

Landmaster

Rhodes Grass

Nemkat

Tall Fescue

Fraydo

SERRADELLA

French

Cadiz

Erica

Margurita

Yellow

Charano

Santorini

This seed is tested for quality by ISTA Accredited Laboratories. A seed testing analysis certificate is available upon request from your seed supplier.



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