

H Y B R I D D I S C X S T R A N D M E D I C

toreador



Toreador is an early maturing aphid resistant Hybrid Disc x Strand Medic (*Medicago littoralis* x *Medicago tornata*) and is a superior replacement for such varieties as Tornafield and Harbinger. Toreador demonstrates good resistance to Blue-Green Aphid and Spotted Alfalfa Aphid. Its early maturity makes it well suited to low rainfall environments and it can provide valuable high quality feed for such regions. Toreador has 15-30% soft seed, which enables it to regenerate well during the following year after seed set or after a cropping rotation. Increased aphid resistance will improve productivity and persistence compared to that of most other medics of similar maturity. Toreador is adapted to a wide range of soils and will provide a high level of soil nitrogen and effective disease break.

CHECKLIST

- ✓ **Early maturing Hybrid Medic**
- ✓ **70-95 days to flowering**
- ✓ **15-30% soft seed allows for good regeneration**
- ✓ **Performs very well on deep sandy soils and sandy loams**
- ✓ **Excellent early vigor, herbage and seed production**
- ✓ **Good resistance to Blue-Green Aphid**

RAINFALL

Toreador is suited to temperate areas receiving a total rainfall of 275-400mm.

SOIL TYPE

Toreador is suited to neutral to alkaline soils pH 5.7-8.0 (CaCl_2). Toreador prefers soil types ranging from sands to loams.

INOCULANT

Apply group AL rhizobium to seed prior to planting. Plant nodulation is extremely important for soils below pH 7.0 (CaCl_2). Inoculation is essential to ensure sufficient nodulation occurs and maximise nitrogen fixation.

MATURITY

Toreador demonstrates early maturity with 70-95 days to flowering. This is similar to varieties such as Herald and Harbinger, and is one to three weeks earlier than Tornafield and Rivoli Medics.

REGENERATION

Toreador is moderately hard seeded and produces between 15-30% soft seeds. This enables Toreador to regenerate well during the following year after seed set or after a cropping phase of up to two years.

GRAZING

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

Once established, Toreador persists well under grazing management which preserves growing points, giving good early ground cover but which also promotes prostrate plant growth. Toreador can be grazed in the first year of sowing, providing fresh feed in winter and spring and dry feed in the summer and autumn.

DISEASE RESISTANCE

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

PEST RESISTANCE

Toreador has good resistance to both Blue-Green aphid (*Acythosiphon kondoi*) and Spotted alfalfa aphid (*Theroaphis trifolii*) but is susceptible to Cowpea aphid (*Aphis craccivora*). Like most other Medics



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Toreador is susceptible to Red Legged Earth Mite (*Halotydens destructor*), Lucerne Flea (*Sminthurus virdis*), Sitona Weevil (*Sitona discoidea*) and potentially from Root Lesion Nematode (*Pratylenchus neglectus*).

SOWING RATE

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

If sowing Toreador for seed production it is suggested that a rate of 10-14 kg/ha be used.

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.

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York

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Capello

Haymaker

LUCERNE

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