

FRENCH SERRADELLA

e r i c a



Erica French Serradella (*Ornithopus sativus*) is a moderately hard-seeded, Annual Legume with a prostrate growth habit which becomes semi-erect if left ungrazed. It was selected as a hard-seeded alternative to Cadiz French Serradella.

Erica is deep-rooted which will enable it to produce herbage long after traditional pastures have dried off. This will also allow the plants to recover quickly after a long dry period compared to other shallow-rooted legume species such as Sub-Clover. Erica is well suited to a wide range of light to medium acid soils. It demonstrates better tolerance of free aluminium levels compared to many other legume species.

Erica has early to mid season maturity and is well suited to low to medium rainfall environments. It demonstrates good aphid tolerance and lower susceptibility to Red Legged Earth Mite compared to Lucerne or Sub-Clover. Erica is palatable, non-bloating and suited to both hay and continuous grazing once established whilst providing the benefits of a disease break and nitrogen inputs into the soil profile.

Erica is moderately hard-seeded and therefore will be suited for medium to long term pasture rotations. It has demonstrated that approximately 10% of the seed is germinable at maturity with a further 30% of the seed softening during the autumn period. The remainder of the seed will soften in subsequent seasons, which provides protection against false breaks and ensures long term persistence.

CHECKLIST

- ✓ **Early maturing – 105 days to flower**
- ✓ **Hard seeded alternative to Cadiz**
- ✓ **Excellent regeneration and persistence**
- ✓ **Grazing tolerant**
- ✓ **Moderately tolerant to Red Legged Earth Mite and Aphids**

RAINFALL

Erica is suited to temperate areas receiving 350mm+ annual rainfall.

SOIL TYPE

Erica is best suited to deep, fertile, well drained light to medium soils. Hard-setting soils should be avoided (eg Sodic soils). It can tolerate high levels of free aluminium and prefers soils ranging from pH 4.0–7.0 (CaCl₂). Erica can tolerate short periods of waterlogging but not inundation.

INOCULANT

Apply Group S Rhizobium to the seed prior to planting. 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

Erica demonstrates early to mid-season maturity, flowering approximately 105 days after sowing. This is similar to Cadiz Serradella.

REGENERATION

Erica is a moderately hard-seeded variety which is suited for medium to long term pasture rotations. To enhance regeneration it is important to only lightly graze plants during flowering and seed set. It is important to graze down summer material by early autumn to encourage germination for the following season.



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GRAZING

Erica is well suited to moderate set stocking or rotational grazing practices once established. If over-grazed during the establishment period a significant reduction of plant density can occur resulting in stand thinning or failure.

During the first year of establishment, stock should be removed during the early stages of flowering to maximise the levels of seed set for regeneration in the following year.

DISEASE RESISTANCE

Few disease problems have been observed in dry land pasture environments. However, if sown in high rainfall areas or under irrigation, diseases caused by *Rhizoctonia* (*Rhizoctonia spp.*) and *Colletotrichum* (*Colletotrichum spp.*) can occur. Other diseases that have been observed in French Serradella crops include Brown Leaf Spot (*Pleiochaeta setosa*) and Grey Mould (*Botrytis cinerea*).

PEST RESISTANCE

Once Erica has developed its first true leaf it is generally not attacked by aphids. It can suffer damage from Blue Oat Mite (*Penthaleus major*) and Red Legged Earth Mite (*Halotydeus destructor*) in newly sown stands and heavy infestations will require control. However, once established, Erica tolerates these pests better than Lucerne or Sub-Clover.

Erica can suffer attacks from Native Budworm (*Heliothis punctigera*), Lucerne Flea (*Sminthurus viridis*), Vegetable Weevil (*Listroderes obliquus*) and Jassids (*Cicadellidae spp.*) Control measures need to take place as required.

SOWING RATE

When sowing alone to produce a dense sward, sow at a minimum of 5–10kg/ha. In pasture mixtures Erica should be sown at 3–5kg/ha.

If sowing Erica for seed production it is suggested that a rate of 7–10kg/ha be used.

Optimum time for sowing is early to late autumn after rainfall. Sow at a depth of 0.5–1.5cm into a moist seedbed free of broadleaf and grass weeds.

PLANT BREEDERS RIGHTS (PBR)

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Seedmark Exclusive Varieties

BISERRULA

Mauro

CLOVER

Arrowleaf

Cefalu

Zulu II

Balansa

Bolta

Frontier

Berseem

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Lightning

Morbulk

Nitro Plus

Subterranean

Antas

Campeda

Denmark

Gosse

Losa

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Rosedale

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PASTURE GRASS

Cocksfoot

Kasbah

Phalaris

Atlas PG

Australian II

Holdfast

Landmaster

Rhodes Grass

Nemkat

Tall Fescue

Fraydo

SERRADELLA

French

Cadiz

Erica

Margurita

Yellow

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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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