

SUBTERRANEAN CLOVER

L o s a

Losa is a black seeded Sub-Clover that belongs to the *Trifolium subterraneum ssp. subterraneum* family and was derived from several elite lines of Sardinian germplasm and therefore is well suited to Mediterranean and temperate climates.

Losa demonstrates a prostrate to semi erect growth habit and persists well on various soil types. It has been selected for its superior early vigour and improved autumn and spring production compared to other early season varieties such as Dalkeith. Losa requires a minimum growing season of 4 months. Its early vigour allows for quick ground coverage which is extremely important in low rainfall situations. Losa is a suitable replacement to Daliak, Geraldton and Dalkeith. The early maturity and hard seed levels of Losa makes it suited to medium term cropping rotations. Losa will provide the benefits of soil nitrogen along with an effective disease break.

CHECKLIST

- ✓ **Early season maturity**
- ✓ **97 days to flowering**
- ✓ **More productive replacement for Dalkeith and Daliak**
- ✓ **Much improved early vigour – excellent ground cover**
- ✓ **High hard seeds, regeneration and persistence**
- ✓ **Very leafy variety forming a dense erect sward**
- ✓ **Suited to lower rainfall areas and cropping rotations**

RAINFALL

Losa is well suited to temperate areas receiving a total annual rainfall greater than 350mm. This makes Losa suited for use in low rainfall areas and cropping rotations.

SOIL TYPE

Losa is suited to a wide range of light to heavy soils which are moderately well drained with an ideal pH range of 5.0-7.0 (CaCl_2) but will remain productive in soils down to pH 4.5 (CaCl_2). Growers should consider liming (coating or fertiliser applications) if sowing into high acid situations (i.e. $<4.9 \text{ CaCl}_2$). Responses to lime can occur up to pH 6.0 (CaCl_2).

INOCULANT

Apply group C Rhizobium inoculant to the seed prior to sowing. 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

Losa is an early maturing type, flowering approximately 95 to 100 days after sowing which is similar to Dalkeith, Geraldton and Daliak.

REGENERATION

Losa has the ability to produce more seed and provide high levels of hard seed (30%) compared to varieties such as Dalkeith and Geraldton. This characteristic allows Losa to build up a greater reserve of seed in the soil over time, thus enhancing persistence and productivity for many years, particularly in cropping rotations.

GRAZING

Losa has demonstrated excellent autumn, winter and spring growth levels. Its is a very "leafy" variety which forms dense swards ideal for grazing and has demonstrated superior plant regeneration compared to Daliak and Seaton Park. Summer grazing should be monitored carefully in low rainfall areas.



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Care must be taken with new sown pastures so as not to overgraze too early as plants can be pulled from the ground. Light grazing during the establishment period will help control weeds and encourage dense prostrate growth. Once established, heavy grazing of Losa up to flowering will improve seed set. When flowering begins, stocking rates should be reduced to optimise seed set.

DISEASE RESISTANCE

Losa has demonstrated moderate resistance to Clover Scorch (*Kabatiella caulivora*). It is moderately susceptible to Root Rots caused by Pythium (*Pythium spp.*) and Fusarium (*Fusarium spp.*). As Losa is generally grown in dry, low rainfall

environments disease pressure of Pythium and Fusarium is significantly reduced thus the moderate susceptibility of Losa to these diseases is not considered a disadvantage.

PEST RESISTANCE

Losa, as with all Sub-Clovers, is susceptible to Red Legged Earth Mite, (*Halotydeus destructor*), Blue-Green Aphid (*Acyrtosiphon kondoi*), Blue Oat Mite (*Penthaleus major*) and Spotted Alfalfa Aphid (*Therioaphis trifolii*). Therefore control is essential at the early seedling stage and appropriate pest management must be implemented as required.

SOWING RATE

When sowing alone to produce a dense stand sow at a minimum of 6-10 kg/ha under dryland conditions and 10-15 kg/ha under irrigation. In pasture mixtures, Losa should be sown at 4-10 kg/ha.

If sowing Losa for seed production it is suggested that a rate of 15-20 kg/ha is used.

Optimum time for sowing is early autumn after rainfall. Sow at a depth of 1-1.5cm into a moist seedbed free of broadleaf and grass weeds.

EXCLUSIVE LICENCE

Seedmark (Seed Technology and Marketing) has an exclusive licence for the production and marketing of Losa.

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

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