

Jester-SU Barrel medic

Pasture legumes



350mm–450mm+



5.7–8.5_{CaCl}



Wide range of types



AM or **AgriCote**



PBR

Sowing rate:

Sole stand: 5–10kg/ha

In mix: 2–5kg/ha

Jester SU (*Medicago truncatula Gaertn.*) is a new barrel medic which has all the features of Jester combined with tolerance to sulfonylurea (SU) herbicide residues.

This makes Jester-SU an ideal variety for growers in low to medium rainfall areas who have used a sulfonylurea herbicide in their previous years crop. In alkaline soils, SU herbicide residue can persist at damaging levels to sensitive varieties for, 1-5 years.

Jester-SU and Sultan SU are the only two barrel medics in the market with SU residue tolerance.

This variety was bred by the highly successful team at the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) and is a superior replacement for the original Jester and older variety Jemalong. Along with SU residue tolerance it has good resistance to both blue green and spotted alfalfa aphid.

Key features

- SU (sulfonylurea) residue tolerant
- Hard seeded barrel medic
- Mid season – Similar flowering time to Jester
- Good aphid resistance (BGA & SAA)
- Comparable disease tolerance when compared with Jester
- Australian bred

Key benefits

- Gives flexibility for growers who use SU herbicides in previous years
- Superior alternative to older varieties Paraggio, Sephi and Jemalong
- Regenerates well after cropping phase of 1–3 years

Product fit

Jester-SU is predominately suited to southern Australia's semi-arid cropping zones where it provides nutritious feed for livestock, improves soil fertility through nitrogen fixation and can act as a disease break for various cereal root pathogens.

Agronomy and management

Establishment

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

Seeding rate and sowing

2–5 kg/ha in a mix or 5kg to 10kg in a pure stand. Higher seeding rates will improve competition against weeds and allow for earlier grazing in the first year. Sowing depth of 1–2 cm is ideal and ensures good seed soil contact. Mixtures of different varieties can help overcome seasonal, soil and rotational variability, e.g. Jester-SU could be sown with Sultan SU or Angel medic to accommodate variable soil types within the paddock.

Inoculation

Inoculate seed with group AM rhizobium unless the paddock has had a healthy stand of medic in the past two years. Good nodulation is essential for maximum nitrogen fixation which will benefit the following crop.

Nutrition

Good levels of phosphorus (P) and zinc (Zn) are critical for maximum medic growth and thus nitrogen fixation. Copper (Cu) and sulphur (S) are also important.

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 such as take-all and CCN. Less selective means of weed control such as spray grazing, winter cleaning and spray topping can be more safely used to control weeds after the initial year, when medic density and soil seed reserves have built up.

Pest / disease control

Jester-SU should be monitored closely for RLEM (red legged earth mite), lucerne flea and cowpea aphid damage, especially in the first year of establishment, spray as necessary.

Occasionally will be affected by black stem fungus and rhizoctonia

Grazing – Establishment

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

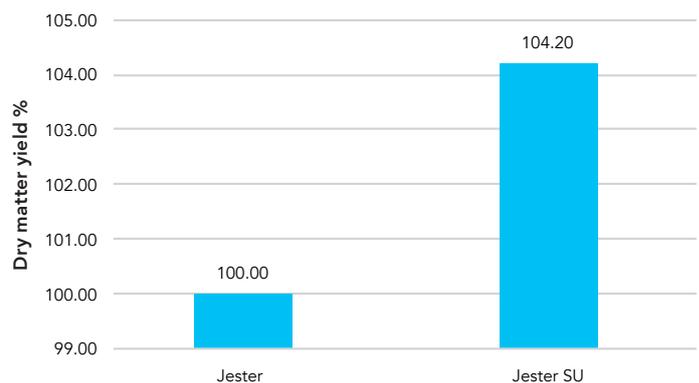
Grazing - Regeneration

Initially defer grazing at the break of the season to maximise plant establishment. Then apply grazing pressure to control upright grasses and 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 seed-soil reserves for maximum persistence, regeneration and production.



Left and right – Jester-SU superior growth compared with Jester (middle) when grown out in soils with SU residue.

2013–14 Howlong yield trial



Howlong research trial data indicates Jester-SU has superior first year yield and regeneration into year 2, 4% over Jester.

Grow with Confidence



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