

# Monti sub-clover

*Yanninum spp*

Pasture legume



450mm+



4.5–7.0<sub>CaCl</sub>



Medium to heavy



PBR



C or AgriCote®

Sowing rate:  
8–10kg of AgriCote per  
hectare in a pasture mix  
or blend.

Monti has leaf flecking unlike Trikkala. Its flower is predominantly white with slight pink venation. The white coloured seeds are relatively large (approximately 146,000 seeds/kg)

Monti is an Australian bred yanninum sub clover, bred as an improvement on the popular 'Trikkala' cultivar. It has exceptional early season growth with reliable regeneration. Monti will improve the legume content and productivity of pastures in the waterlogged areas.

Monti has a semi-prostrate growth habit. It has been selected for use in permanent or long term phase pastures. Adapted to temperate areas receiving 450–650mm annual rainfall, Monti will perform to its best where intermittent winter waterlogging occurs. Like other yanninum cultivars, Monti is particularly well adapted to moderately acid soils (pH 4.5–7.0 CaCl<sub>2</sub>) that range in texture from sandy loams to clays.

## Key features

- Early-mid maturity (110 days), suitable for all areas using Trikkala
- Has better tolerance to phytophthora root rot and clover scorch disease than Trikkala
- Well suited to areas receiving an annual rainfall of 450–650 mm and prone to waterlogging.

## Key benefits

- More feed for livestock with improved winter growth and total season forage yield than Trikkala
- Improved disease tolerance (compared to Trikkala)
- Produces excellent early winter growth, averaging 46% more than Trikkala
- Excellent adaptation to the shorter growing seasons experienced over the last decade

## Pest and disease tolerance

Monti possesses similar levels of tolerance as other Yanninum cultivars to red legged earth mites, alfalfa flea, blue-green aphid and spotted alfalfa aphid (Table 1). Importantly, Monti has better tolerance to phytophthora root rot than Trikkala and Larisa (Table 1).

Phytophthora can be extremely damaging to emerging seedlings, leading to extensive losses. Monti is also more tolerant to clover scorch disease (*Kabatiella caulivora*) than Trikkala. Clover scorch can also be very damaging to sub clover stands in the waterlogged areas in which Yanninum cultivars are typically grown and therefore this heightened level of tolerance is important.

**Table 1. Pest and Disease Tolerance Ratings**

Cultivar	Red legged earth mite*	Alfalfa flea*	Blue-green aphid*	Spotted alfalfa aphid*	Phytophthora clandestina**	Clover scorch*
Monti	ST	ST	VT	T	0.9	3.6
Trikkala	ST	ST	VT	T	2.6	5.5
Gosse	ST	ST	VT	T	1.1	2.6
Larisa	ST	ST	T	T	2.3	NA

**Pest ratings:** VT = very tolerant; ST = some tolerance; T = tolerant.

**Phytophthora ratings:** 1 = low incidence of disease; 5 = high incidence of disease.

**Clover scorch ratings:** 1 = low incidence of disease; 10 = high incidence of disease. NA: Not Assessed

\* Data sourced from Mitchell (1990).

\*\* 2010 WA glasshouse screening studies.

## Variety management/ agronomy

### Establishment

**Sowing rate:** 8–10kg of Agricote per hectare in a pasture mix or blend.

**Seed bed preparation:** It is recommended to sow following the autumn break into a fine, well prepared seed bed. Seed should be sown with a starter fertilizer and AgriCote coated seed, which includes inoculant, insecticide, fungicide, micro nutrients and bio stimulants to enhance germination can be used.

**Sowing:** Best results are achieved by direct drilling sub-clover into the top 1–1.5cm into a fine seedbed, press wheels or light rolling will assist establishment in most cases. This should be avoided if the soil is hard setting.

### Grazing

Sub-clovers respond well to grazing once established, this is generally when plants will not easily pull from the soil. A good seed set is vital in the first year of a sub-clover pasture to ensure regeneration in the second and subsequent years. To encourage seed set, medium to heavy grazing through late winter/early spring is recommended. Stock numbers should be significantly reduced when the sub-clover starts flowering and until seed set has occurred. Best regeneration will occur the following autumn if the remnant dry growth is removed and good weed control is undertaken. Hay making in the establishment year should be avoided as it will significantly reduce sub-clover seed set and future regeneration.

## Performance

Monti has been extensively tested in trials across South Australia and Victoria, demonstrating exceptional early season growth - out-yielding Trikkala, Riverina, Gosse, Napier and Larisa in almost all assessments. In field studies conducted at three sites in South-East South Australia and Western Victoria over 2 years, Monti produced 46% more early winter dry matter than Trikkala (Table 2). Increases in pasture availability at this time of year are particularly valuable.

Cultivar	Early winter	Late winter	Spring
Monti	1321	2611	5479
Trikkala	908	2383	5258
Riverina	637	2114	5407
Gosse	1013	2366	5395
Larisa	555	1802	5448
Napier	583	1747	5287
I.s.d (P=0.05)	267	250	ns*

Table 2. Average seasonal dry matter yields (kg/ha) at 3 southern Australian over 2 years

Being an early-mid maturing Yanninicum cultivar, Monti is well adapted to take advantage of shorter growing seasons whilst still producing high levels of dry matter. The early maturity, good hard seed level, and high seed yields also lead to a more reliable regeneration and persistence over time.

Reliable regeneration is also dependent on the amount of soft seed available at the autumn break. Table 3 shows that the soft seed levels of Monti had increased to around 33% by May, similar to those of Trikkala and Gosse. In contrast, Riverina and Napier had the lowest soft seed levels and demonstrated the poorest seedling regeneration.

Cultivar	Soft seed content (May %)	Seedling regeneration (plants/m <sup>2</sup> )	Seed yield (kg/ha)
Monti	33	1405	1975
Trikkala	36	1320	2074
Riverina	14	448	1766
Gosse	34	765	1599
Larisa	27	635	1458
Napier	17	191	1204
I.s.d (P=0.05)	10	301	187

Table 3. Soft seed content, seedling regeneration and seed yield

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