



Shirohie Millet

Echinochola esculenta

FACT SHEET

Summary of advantages

- ✓ Fast growing with 5-6 weeks to first grazing
- ✓ Can be sown at 14°C and above
- ✓ No hydrocyanic acid (HCN) poisoning risk

Shirohie Millet offers the opportunity for quick, early feed.

Shirohie or temperate Millets can be sown on lighter soils than some other summer forages, however requires good soil nutrition to optimise yield.

Starter fertiliser is required to ensure good production through to the first grazing.

It can be sown earlier than Sorghum and offers an early feed option that can be utilised before other crop options are available.

Shirohie Millet can run to head when under stress or in high summer temperatures resulting in a decline in feed quality.

It is suitable for direct feeding to sheep and cattle and can be ensiled.

Soil temperature at sowing

14°C and above

Fertilizer required (Kgs per ha for a 2.5t/ha crop)

N 30; P 8; K 30; plus trace elements

Sowing rates

Light sandy loams	7 - 10 kgs per ha
Medium sandy loams	10 - 18 kgs per ha
Sandy clay loams/irrigation	25 kgs per ha

if optimum production required

Time to grazing

5 - 6 weeks, then 3 - 4 weeks for subsequent grazing's depending on growth rates

Sowing depth

3 - 4 cm and light roll after sowing

Grazing height

20 – 30 cm to get optimum feed quality but can be grazed up to 70 cm

Graze down to 15cm to get better regrowth

To get improved regrowth graze in smaller blocks and back fence if practical.