Ranger Plantain

*Plantago lancolata*

Ranger is a Plantain variety, chosen for its forage improvement qualities. It is a perfect addition to a pasture mix for increased animal health and performance and is a larger leaf type, with excellent winter production.

- Performs well in all ranges of fertility
- Strikes faster than grasses
- Good water use efficiency, with high drought tolerance
- Highly palatable and provides excellent stock nutrition and performance
- Good all year growth and higher cool season growth, giving feed at key times of the year
- Well balanced levels of crude protein, energy and minerals
- Higher levels of S, Ca, Na, Cu and B than grasses and some clovers
- Use in a mix leads to excellent increases in weight gains and decreased dagginess.

**Seed agronomy table**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dry Matter</th>
<th>&lt;High</th>
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<tr>
<td>Drought Tolerance</td>
<td>&lt;High</td>
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Lifespan
Min Rainfall (mm)  500
Seeding Rate Kg/Ha
Dryland  4-8
Pasture Mix  1-3

Enterprises this seed is being used for
Sheep
Beef Cattle
Horse
Viti & Horti

Goldstrike® the premium seed treatment that assists with establishment vigour and plant development.

Establishment Guarantee® replacement of your crop if it fails to establish satisfactorily in the first thirty days.*

Strengths

• Fast establishing.
• Tolerant of drought and low fertility.
• Excellent feeding value including summer.

Limitations

• Susceptible to broad leaf herbicides.
• Slow growth in winter.

Plant Description

Plant: Erect, leafy, perennial herb with a deep, dense, branching fibrous root system.
Leaves: Rosette of broad leaves from central crown. Leaves up to 25 cm long, often purplish at the base and each with 3 - 5 longitudinal ribs. Fine hairs on upper surface; hairy along the lower side ribs.
Flowers: Tiny, four parted, creamy-white flowers with long stamens. Flowers during midsummer. Flower stems are erect, furrowed, leafless, and up to 50 cm long.
**Seedhead:** A single spike per stem, up to 2.5 cm long, cone-shaped or cylindrical, very compact grey green turning dark brown-black on ripening.

**Seeds:** ~ 1 mm and oval; black-brown. 500,000/kg.

**Pasture type and use**

Valuable component of permanent pastures and specialist summer pastures.

**Where it grows**

**Rainfall:** >600 mm  
**Soils:** Tolerates a broad range of soil types, fertility and pH.  
**Temperature:** Wide climate adaption; tolerant of frost; relatively heat tolerant.

**Establishment**

**Companion species:**  
**Grasses:** Phalaris, cocksfoot, tall fescue, Bromus spp.  
**Legumes:** Sub, white and red clover.  
**Fodder crops:** Brassica spp.

**Sowing/planting rates as single species:** 4 - 8 kg/Ha.  
**Sowing/planting rates in mixtures:** 4 - 6 kg/Ha with specialist clover pastures, 2- 4 kg/Ha with grass pastures or Brassica fodder spp.

**Sowing time:** Sow in autumn/spring after pre-emergent weed control.  
**Inoculation:** Not applicable.  
**Fertiliser:** Sow with ~10-15 kg P/Ha.

**Management**

**Maintenance fertiliser:** 10 kg P/ha.  
**Grazing/cutting:** Can tolerate continuous and close grazing. Graze rotationally to gain maximum production. A 3-4 week rotation in late spring will maintain seed head palatability. Can use for silage/hay.

**Ability to spread:** Yes. Regenerates from self-sown seed. Is a widely naturalised species.  
**Weed potential:** Pollen contains allergens associated with asthma and bronchitis.  
**Major pests:** Red legged earth mite, slugs, snails.  
**Herbicide susceptibility:** Glyphosate and phenoxy based chemicals (2,4-D, MCPA).

**Animal production**

**Feeding value:** Good quality feed. High mineral concentrations including copper, zinc, selenium, cobalt. This widely used medicinal herb contains various secondary metabolites
with recognised tonic and antibiotic properties; these may benefit stock/rumen flora.

**Palatability:** Highly palatable.

**Production potential:** Good spring autumn production.