

The new Grazing Tolerant Lucerne GTL 60 was selected and bred by Pasture Genetics Pty Ltd. Parent germplasm was selected for a broad and low set crown, high forage values, high ruminant palatability with high disease and pest resistance ratings. The parent germplasm was tested under an arduous series of strict grazing protocols over a number of years. This enabled tolerant parent plants to prove their integrity and expression of true grazing tolerant characteristics, to meet the criteria of the grazing tolerant Lucerne GTL trial protocol. The final stage of testing was a 3 year grazing trial where it was grazed on a 3 week set rotation. This continuous stress load put immense pressure on all the candidate lines and was very quick to expose lines with minimal tolerance. The 3 year time frame was set up to simulate traditional Australian practices where the expectation on plant survivability was more than 3 years and beyond.

Bred in Australia, GTL is ideal for extensive graze farming where rotations cannot be as rigorously implemented as in more intensive rotation systems. GTL 60 is the first grazing tolerant to be released in the Australian market, having originated from such a strict and lengthy selection and trialling criteria system to specifically prove grazing tolerance in Lucerne.

GTL 60 is ideally suited as a dual-purpose variety for grazing and hay operations where persistence is more important than winter growth. GTL 60 offers growers a forage plant that is capable of offering high feed quality in bale or grazing situations. Maintaining a critical trait to retain leaf through the drying and bailing process offers greater flexibility to hay producers. Quick recovery after defoliation gives GTL 60 the ability to store plant energy into the crown to give it outright longevity. High levels of resistance to major pests and diseases, and good adaptability to a wide range of soil types helps ensure stronger stands for longer. GTL 60 sets the new Australian benchmark for grazing tolerant Lucerne in Australia with the home bred advantage.