



HIGH ENERGY FEED FOR LIVESTOCK

BROWN MID RIB SORGHUM X SUDAN HYBRID

Pacific BMR is an exciting new release from Pacific Seeds.

Pacific BMR has the BMR gene giving improved digestibility and palatability (the benefits of BMR gene are explained below.)

Pacific BMR has the following benefits:

Good standability

Very sweet stems, particularly in older growth.

What is BMR?

The abbreviation BMR stands for brown mid rib, and refers to the colour of the middle rib in the leaves. In non BMR sorghum the middle ribs are usually green or white.

What are the benefits of BMR?

Forage sorghum developed and bred to contain the BMR gene, has less lignin and will be more digestible to stock. Having less lignin also means the plants are softer and easier for stock to graze. The net outcome of all this is animal productivity can be increased from this type of forage.

Is there more than one type of BMR?

Yes, there are a number of BMR genes originally developed at a prominent North American University. The nutritional benefits do vary with these different genes. Pacific Seeds has chosen BMR genes to provide the best combination of increased digestibility and agronomic performance.

Will stems show some brown too?

They can, particularly on the lower sections of stem above each node. In Pacific BMR there is usually a strong brown colour on stems.

Do BMR plants have softer stems?

Yes, the BMR advantage will be in both leaves and stems. Conventional forage sorghum stems can become increasingly hard with advancing height and maturity, but BMR stems will be softer and easier for stock to eat.



**VARIETY INFORMATION
TECHNOTE**

What about standability?

Lodging can be a problem with some BMR varieties, if they are allowed to grow well beyond their ideal grazing height. In the Pacific Seeds Forage Breeding Program, good standability is an important breeding objective. Parent lines and hybrids are evaluated for standability under a range of environmental conditions.

Pacific Seeds' BMR hybrids

Pacific Seeds evaluated an early flowering BMR hybrid in the mid 1990s, but its early maturity limited its performance. A lot of effort has gone into developing a later maturity hybrid, combining the BMR gene with other important forage characteristics. The first release from this work is a hybrid called Pacific BMR.

Laboratory analyses to date are very encouraging with Pacific BMR showing a digestibility advantage over other hybrids of 3-6%. This improved digestibility translates to an extra 0.3-0.7 MJ/kg in metabolisable energy (ME) value.

Maturity

Pacific BMR is later flowering than traditional forage sorghum. In south east Queensland, Pacific BMR sown in October will normally reach mid-flower in 83 days (early to mid January).

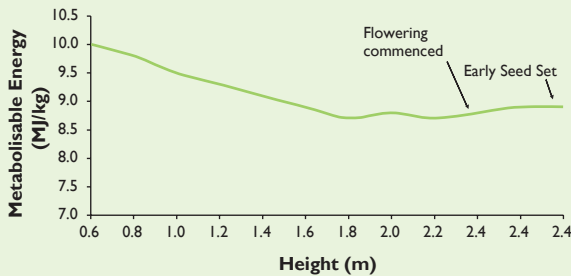
Sweet stems

Pacific BMR is significantly sweeter than other sorghum x sudan hybrids including Jumbo. This difference becomes more noticeable in the older growth. This results in increased palatability plus increased feed energy value.

Suitable for grazing, hay, greenchop or silage

Pacific BMR is suitable for intensive or range grazing, greenchop, hay or silage. For pit silage allow the crop to flower before cutting.

Pacific BMR Metabolisable Energy v's Height



Pacific BMR Protein v's Height



Results from a trial conducted by Pacific Seeds' Forage Research Team showing the effect of growth stage on crude protein and metabolisable energy of Pacific BMR. Sampling started when the crop was 0.6m and continued at regular intervals for eight weeks until plants had flowered.

PLANT TYPE AND PLANTING INFORMATION					PLANTING RATES			FEED QUALITY		
	Genetic type	Time to flower	Soil temp required for sowing	Seed count (seeds/kg)	Marginal dryland (kg/ha)	Favourable dryland (kg/ha)	Irrigation or high rainfall (kg/ha)	Digestibility %	Protein %	Ideal grazing height
Pacific BMR	Sorghum x sudan	late	Above 16°C	32-36,000	3-5	5-10	15-20	59-65	12-18	1 metre

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