

medic variety

JESTER[®]

Aphid resistant hybrid of Jemalong barrel medic with excellent resistance to bluegreen (BGA) and spotted alfalfa aphid (SAA).

General purpose, hardseeded mid-season barrel medic adapted to a wide range of soils.

Very similar performance to Jemalong except for vastly improved aphid resistance.

Still retains the highly distinctive trademark leaf blotch of Jemalong.



RAINFALL

Adapted to the 350-500mm rainfall regions throughout the southern wheat belt.



SOIL TYPE

Adapted to a wide range of soil types from sandy loams to clay loams where the pH_(H₂O) exceeds 6.5.



MATURITY

A mid-season variety, flowering about 110 days after a May sowing – same as Jemalong, similar to Paraggio and a few days to a week later than Mogul.



REGENERATION

With approximately 10% soft seeds by April/May, Jester is able to both regenerate adequately in the year after seed-set or after a cropping phase of one to three years, depending on soil seed reserves.



GRAZING

Once established, Jester persists well under grazing management which preserves growing points, giving good early ground cover but which also promotes prostrate plant growth. This highly nutritive pasture can be grazed in the first year of sowing, providing fresh feed in winter and spring and dry feed in the summer and autumn.



PESTS & DISEASE RESISTANCE

- Jester has good resistance to both bluegreen aphid (BGA) and spotted alfalfa aphid (SAA) but is susceptible to cowpea aphid (CPA).
- Like most other medics it is susceptible to redlegged earth mite, lucerne flea and sitona weevil.
- Jester is generally free of foliar disease but may occasionally be affected by *Phoma* black stem fungus in under-grazed lush stands in wet seasons.
- Medics suffer from *Rhizoctonia* and are rated MS/MR for *Pratylenchus neglectus*.

Jester[®] the general purpose 'Jemalong type' hybrid barrel medic with excellent resistance to BGA and SAA - bred by SARDI

SARDI



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
RESEARCH AND
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PASTURES
GROUP

Pastures for stock, crop & country

Managing Jester[®] for production and persistence

ESTABLISHMENT

Establishes well if sown dry (from mid-April onwards) into cereal stubbles free of broadleaf weeds and with good weed control the previous year. Alternatively, sow into a fine, moist and weed free seedbed soon after the break of the season.

SEEDING RATE & SOWING

Sow at 3–10kg/ha, depending on the situation. Higher seeding rates will improve competition against weeds and allow for earlier grazing in the first year. Sow Jester at the lower rates if using in mixtures of varieties with different maturity, adaptation and hardseededness (*mixtures can help to overcome seasonal, soil and rotational variability*).

Aim for a sowing depth of 1-2cm and ensure good seed-soil contact by the use of press wheels or covering devices such as harrows or prickle chains.

INOCULATION

Inoculate seed with group **AM** rhizobium (**not** AL), unless the paddock has had a healthy stand of medic in the past two years. Inoculation is vital if the pH_(H₂O) is under 7.0. Good nodulation is essential to maximise nitrogen fixation for the benefit of the following crop.

NUTRITION

Good phosphorus (**P**) and zinc (**Zn**) nutrition is critical for maximum medic growth and nitrogen fixation. Recent experiments at 15 low rainfall alkaline sites in SA and Victoria have found that addition of P (31 kgP/ha) and Zn (6.3 kgZn/ha) increased medic dry matter production by an average of 25% from 1640 kg/ha to 2040 kg/ha, (GRDC project UA345).

WEED CONTROL

Maximise seed-set in the establishment year by reducing weed competition as much as possible. Early removal of grasses with grass selective herbicides results in improved pasture growth and reduced carry-over of cereal root diseases (eg Take-all and CCN). Less selective means of weed control such as spray-grazing, winter-cleaning and spray-topping can be used to control weeds after the initial year, when medic density and soil seed reserves have been built-up. Medics are very sensitive to sulphonylurea herbicide residues and attention must be paid to plant-back periods for these chemicals, especially in low rainfall regions with alkaline soils.

PEST CONTROL

In the year of establishment especially, monitor for redlegged earth mite and lucerne flea damage, both at the seedling and flowering stage and spray as necessary.

GRAZING

establishment

Defer grazing after sowing until plants are well established and then only graze lightly until flowering. Remove stock until the stand has finished flowering and producing pods, to maximise seed-set. Carefully monitor summer grazing, especially in the first year, as over-grazing of pods will reduce future pasture regeneration.

regeneration

Initially defer grazing at the break of the season to maximise plant establishment. Then apply grazing pressure to control upright grasses and to encourage prostrate growth until ground cover is complete. Increase grazing pressure if necessary to prevent overly bulky pastures which are more susceptible to moisture stress and foliar fungal disease.

Ensure a good seed-set at least one year in four, to maintain adequate soil-seed reserves for maximum persistence, regeneration and production.

Available from your local farm store. For more information on other varieties and the SARDI Pastures Group visit www.sardi.sa.gov.au/pastures

Author: Jake Howie

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BREEDING AND PLANT BREEDERS RIGHTS

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