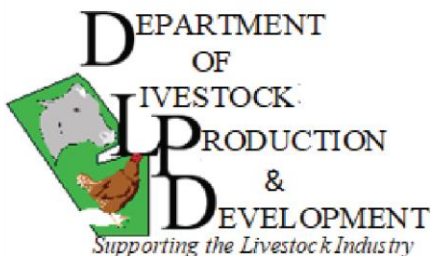




PASTURE SUNHEMP

Botanical Name: *Crotalaria Juncea*

TECHNICAL INFORMATION



TYPE: Sub-tropical, Legume, Annual, Summer

MORPHOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

- Herbaceous, shrubby, branched, erect form, 1 - 4 m tall
- Strong taproot; vigorous lateral roots
- Leaf blades elliptic to oblong; short-stemmed, 4 - 13 cm x 5 - 30mm ; upper surface pubescent
- Heart-shaped seed; greyish olive, dark grey, dark brown to black ; 4 - 6 mm

CROP STRENGTHS

- Soil improvement or green manure crop because of its ability to produce large amounts of biomass in 60 days, therefore, potential to build organic matter levels and sequester carbon
- Poor host to nematodes
- Pasture crop, hay making, ideal cover crop
- Very effective nitrogen fixation
- Feeding value: Crude protein: 12.5 - 15 % in green material, Digestibility: 65 - 75 %
- Production potential: Dry matter production: 5 - 12 t/ha/annum
- Because of its rapid growth and relatively short growing season requirement, can be an excellent alternative crop

SOIL AND CLIMATIC REQUIREMENTS

- Grow well in well-drained sandy loam to clay soils and tolerates poor sandy soils
- Soil pH should range between 5-8.5
- Warm weather crop, frost will kill shoot and stops growth
- Drought tolerant

ESTABLISHMENT

- As a green manure or pasture, sunhemp is mainly grown during the rainy season and should be preferably sown in a well-prepared, fertilized, weeded seedbed to a depth of 2-3 cm.
- Seeds can be broadcast or sown in rows (recommended). Sunhemp is planted at 20 -25kg per ha.
- When planting in rows interrow spacing is 45cm and inrow spacing is 15cm.
- Sunhemp is a fast germinator, it germinates within 3 days under favorable conditions. General fertilizer application of 250kg/ha of compound D is recommended.

CROP MANAGEMENT

Sunhemp is a fast growing crop that suppresses weeds by shading them out once sufficient height is reached, however farmers are encouraged to keep their fields weed especially during the first 4-6 weeks after emergence.

Regular scouting of the crop is key in controlling pests and diseases, integrated pest management however plays critical role in controlling and managing pests.

HEAD OFFICE & PROVINCIAL CONTACT DETAILS

DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

Head Office
 Bevan Building
 Number 18 Borrowdale Road
 Harare
 Phone: 024 2253632
 Email:

AGRITEX MANICALAND PROVINCE

Government Composite Building
 Corner Robert Mugabe Road
 / Fourth Street
 Mutare
 Phone: 020 2064108
 Email:

AGRITEX MASHONALAND CENTRAL

Ndoda Hondo Complex
 Stand Number 308
 Central Avenue
 Bindura
 Phone: 0662107522
 Email: agritexmashcent@gmail.com

AGRITEX MASHONALAND EAST PROVINCE

Government Composite Building
 Corner Morris Avenue/Second Street
 Marondera
 Phone: 065 2322255
 Email: provincialofficer@gmail.com

AGRITEX MASHONALAND WEST PROVINCE

Composite Building (PMD building)
 Number 1 Chris Chatambudza Road
 Chinhoyi
 Phone: 0267 223160
 Email: agritexmashwest@gmail.com

AGRITEX MATABELELAND NORTH

Mhlahlandlela Government Complex
 Corner Tenth Street/Basth Street
 Bulawayo
 Phone: 0292 884546/267161-4
 Email: agritexmatnorth@gmail.com

AGRITEX MATABELELAND SOUTH

New Government Complex
 Corner Third Street/Queen Street
 Gwanda
 Phone: 0284 20601
 Email: agritexmatsouth@gmail.com

AGRITEX MIDLANDS PROVINCE

New Government Complex
 Corner RG Mugabe/Tenth Street
 Gweru
 Phone: 054 2227091/59
 Email: agritexmidlands8@gmail.com

AGRITEX MASVINGO PROVINCE

Benjamin Burombo Building
 Corner R Mugabe/Simon Mazorodze
 Masvingo
 Phone: 0392 236052
 Email: agritexmasvingo@gmail.com



In Partnership with the European African Seed Initiative
www.easiseeds.com

