



Serradella and Gland Clover Suppresses Weeds



Project Snapshot

Land Manager Names:	Bruce Talbot
Property Size:	3035 ha
Location:	Corrigin
Annual Rainfall (mm):	200 mm
Enterprise Mix:	Crop 60%, Stock 40%
Soil Types/Vegetation Types:	Grey clays to morels

Key Messages

- For optimal pasture growth use inoculants at planting time
- Annual pastures can offer multiple benefits as a break crop
- If conditions are favourable, serradella can stay green right up to the beginning of summer.

Their story

Being a member of the Corrigin Farm Improvement Group, Bruce became aware of Wheatbelt NRM's Soil Conservation Incentives Program after receiving a phone call from then Executive Officer, Sandy Turton. The allocated funds gave Bruce and other farmers in his area the opportunity to trial gland clover and serradella on their properties. Bruce sowed Prima gland clover at 5 kg/ha along with yellow serradella (2 kg/ha Yelbini and 1 kg/ha Santorini), and pink serradella (1 kg/ha Erica/Margurita) in a 45 ha paddock in autumn 2011. Inoculants for the clover and serradella were also in the mix; 10 kg/ha of ALOSCA Group C and 10kg/ha of ALSOCA Group S.

As a result of being involved in the project, Bruce now has a cleaner paddock as he has been able to manipulate grasses during the annual pasture legume phase. "I've now got a cleaner paddock and I'm assuming that there is more nitrogen available due to the legume phase", says Bruce. "It is great to use the annual pasture legume phase as a break crop particularly as it gives me the ability to clean up the grasses".

Lessons Learnt

Bruce has made a few changes to his management of the paddock now that he has some new annual pasture legumes. "I will be doing a one in one out rotation now, with the legume pasture phase being used as a break crop year", Bruce explained. Bruce was pleasantly surprised by the strong germination of the mix and the long growing season of the serradella. "I was amazed that it flowered twice and that the paddock stayed green until mid December", Bruce mentioned. "I think the extended flowering was due to a significant rainfall received later on in the season".

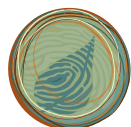
If Bruce was to participate in a project like this in the future he would do a bigger area as he is extremely happy with the way the pasture system has suited his paddock. "It is nice to plant something new and get a result", Bruce said.

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Published: August 2013



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