

# GUIDE TO THE KEY FEATURES

# ANNUAL SUMMER & WINTER FORAGE CROPS



CHARACTERISTICS	CROP TYPES				
	Forage Sorghum	Forage Pennisetum	Temperate Millets	Summer Legumes	Oats/Winter Cereals
Ease of establishment	Relatively easy	Requires more care	Requires more care	Relatively easy	Relatively easy
Initial growth rate	Very fast	Fast	Moderate	Slow	Fast
Speed of regrowth	Fast	Very Fast	Fast	Slow	Moderate
Overall feed production potential	High	Medium	Varies	Low	Medium
Drought tolerance	Very tolerant	Very tolerant***	Poor tolerant	Very tolerant	Low tolerant
Average crude protein # (%)	8-16	16-20	13-20	16-20	16-20
Average digestibility # (%)	60	68	65	56	70
Average metabolizable energy # (%)	8.6	9.5	9.4	8.1	10.0

\*\* Forage pennisetumns require rainfall after emergence to stimulate secondary root development. Once the roots are well developed, plants are very drought tolerant.

# The figures listed are averages for whole plants. When grazing animals have ample feed they will choose to eat more leaf (highest feed quality) and less stem. This means the quality of the feed actually eaten may be higher than the figures listed above.