

# Grower nights plan GRT options

MIRIAM VALE and Gympie will host a grower information night at Miriam Vale on October 28 to coincide with the start of spring and the giant rats tail grass (GRT) season. The night will concentrate on using the many tools to minimise GRT reinfestation, rather than just a chemical approach.

Ross Newman of Savage, Barker & Backhouse, Rockhampton, will be among the presenters and draw from a long history in pasture production and selecting competitive species to suit production styles. His experience in the seed industry and a family hay business has provided a unique understanding of best management practices to maximise pasture productivity.

"Pasture productivity and competition is one of the key management skills that any producer can influence that drives dollars into your pocket, but also



The heavy infestation demonstration site shows challenging terrain treatment in the foreground and challenging terrain untreated.

### WORKSHOP TOPICS

A RANGE of topics will be covered in the one-hour workshop to provide an overview of tools that can be used together. Topics include pasture selection and pasture developments, integrated weed management (IWM), WHP periods and options to minimise production losses, precision aerial application, The Epple Skattergun and usage options with the granular GP flupropanate.

reduces the exposure to GRT infestation," Mr Newman said.

The Gympie information night, starting at 5.30pm on Thursday, October 30, will also include updates from Heritage Seeds and results with helicopter applications over the past three years.

Paul Hubbard, national sales

manager for Granular Products Pty Ltd, will outline how the precision aerial applications combined with granular flupropanate can help the agronomic focus on pasture competition rather than 'just killing weeds'. Slowing weeds' ability to re-infest while balancing production was the tricky bit.

## Dwarf big on yield, quality

THE first forage sorghum hybrid to possess the unique dwarf brachytic trait has hit the Australian market, offering growers the yield and quality of taller brown mid-rib varieties without the lodging risk.

Pacific Seeds' Ninja is an ultra late-flowering BMR bred primarily for beef and dairy grazing, while providing an alternative to corn silage in some environments.

Dwarf brachytic BMR forages have been in paddocks in the US and Argentina since 2008, when Pacific Seeds' parent company, Advanta, first commercialised them.

Pacific Seeds forage sorghum manager Maree Crawford said the dwarf brachytic trait condensed spacing between internodes on a sorghum plant, boosting leaf area.

"Ninja has very short internodes with a high leaf-to-stem ratio, resulting in a shorter, stout plant that stands well and produces multiple tillers," she said. "This allows it to provide equivalent yields to conventional forage sorghum hybrids."

Ms Crawford said people should not be deceived by the



Calvin Meacle checks out a Ninja crop in Central Queensland.

variety's appearance in terms of productivity. "In our cutting trials, we found the dry matter production is right up there with other highly-valued products in the marketplace such as Sugargraze and Sweet Jumbo LPA."

She said tests also returned high energy and protein levels.

In grazing situations Ninja also promised to provide more

utilisation of the forage.

Ninja is highly suited to dryland systems where standability can be affected. The product was trialed in a harsh central Queensland environment a severe period of stress, receiving around 40 millimetres of rain.

But it came away to produce a lot of feed, showing its recovery rate was high.

## Fowlers trial forage sorghum

OWNERS of a well established Pittsworth Red Angus stud, Milton and Cheryl Fowler, were among the first farmers in the country to get their paddocks planted to Australia's first dwarf brachytic brown mid rib forage sorghum.

The Fowlers, who run Donna-Lynn, planted Pacific Seeds' new release Ninja last October as part of a small-scale release, ahead of its major release this summer.

Pacific Seeds said the dwarf brachytic trait condensed the spacing between internodes on the sorghum plant, resulting in a high leaf-to-stem ratio and giving equivalent yields and quality of taller varieties without lodging risk.

Mr Fowler said last summer was exceptionally dry, but they were still able to produce a crop to feed their herd. "It was a really bad year for everyone, and was very dry



Milton Fowler and Mark Weier with Milton's prizewinning Red Angus at the Pittsworth Show.

for livestock producers in the Pittsworth and Felton district," he said.

He started the cattle on forage sorghum, moved them to oats, and then let them have a second go at the forage stubble.

"It was quite interesting that even when they were on oats, they went back to gnaw on the Ninja stubble in the last of couple months.

"I'd say it was the sugar levels that kept them coming back."

The variety first captured their attention at an industry presentation a few months prior.

"Ninja's leaf-to-stem ratio was

something that stood out to us.

"When the plants get too tall, they become unmanageable, so for a shorter plant to produce similar dry matter levels to taller BMRs, that was attractive."

The Fowlers secured seed for seven hectares at the farm, sowing with a Howard Bagshaw 24-tynd planter at 5kg/ha in a paddock fallow out of summer forage last summer.

Mr Fowler has always been passionate about genetically strong cattle, working with them all his life at Donna-Lynn, which was purchased by his father Thomas almost 100 years ago.

LEFT: Milton Fowler inspects a grain sorghum crop at a field day.

Salinity, Scale, Iron Problems

**- SOLVED -**  
**HYDROSMART™**

1300 138 223 www.hydrosmart.com.au

CC-1634908

## Granular Products Pty Ltd

Woody Weeds Giant Parramatta Grass

Giant Rat Tail Grass

**GROWER INFORMATION SESSIONS**

An Australian Company Providing a Future in Better Weed Control through Granular Herbicide Innovation

5:30pm Tuesday 28th October, Miriam Vale Hotel (Miriam Vale)

5:30pm Thursday 30th October, Tom Grady's Tozer St Store (Gympie).

**GRANULAR HERBICIDES HITTING THE TARGET WEEDS**

GRANULAR PRODUCTS  
**GP Flupropanate**

www.granularproducts.com

AW1511638

## THE ANSWER TO YOUR FEED GAP - CONSERVE FODDER

BROWN MID RIB SORGHUM X SUDAN HYBRID

**BMR Octane**

SWEET SORGHUM X SWEET SORGHUM HYBRID

**Sugargraze**

Member of

**ADVANTA**

MACFOR250714

**PACIFIC SEEDS**

pacificseeds.com.au