

Lucerne product range.

Name	Dormancy (rating/10)
Flairdale	Semi - winter dormant (4)
Force 4	Winter - dormant (4)
Kaituna	Semi - winter dormant
Icon	Semi - winter active (6)
Pioneer 5454	Winter - dormant
Rhino	Winter - dormant (3)
Runner	Winter - dormant (3)
SuperSonic	Winter - active (9)
Torlesse	Winter - dormant
Wairau	Winter - dormant
WL 325HQ	Semi - winter dormant

Understanding dormancy.

Cultivar selection: There are three main types of Lucerne that are classified according to their dormancy rating. The figures in the brackets refer to the new scale that plant breeders are adopting to better explain dormancy ratings. Under this system 1 is the most winter dormant and 10 is the most winter active.

Winter active (8-10): These cultivars can produce up to 20% of their growth during winter and are generally more susceptible to disease, therefore having a short stand life of 4-6 years

Semi winter dormant (5-7): These cultivars normally only produce 5-10% of their growth during winter. Have improved disease resistance and if well managed can last between 5-7 years.

Winter dormant (1-4): These cultivars have little or no winter growth and have the potential to last 8 or more years if well managed. They usually show excellent disease resistance and the best quality as they have the highest leaf to stem ratio.

Inoculation options.

You can purchase your seed either as bare seed or coated. If bare seed is used you must use a specific Lucerne inoculant that is applied onto the seed soon before drilling. Some coated seed products have the inoculant included in the coat as well as a fungicide, molybdenum and insecticide to give increased seedling survival.

To order or for more information and advice please call

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SuperSonic

winter active lucerne



SuperSonic is a premium lucerne cultivar that is ideal in close grazed pastures and intensive forage cutting programmes. The high leaf to stem ratio provides high protein and digestibility. In trials with 28 varieties SuperSonic came out in the top group, out performing their closest competing cultivars by 10%.

- High dry matter yield.
- Improved disease and pest resistance.
- Improved leaf to stem ratio - a real advantage in close grazed pastures and intensive cutting programmes.
- Highly winter active (rating 9) with strong autumn and spring growth.
- Higher than normal protein and digestibility features.

Icon

semi-winter active lucerne



Icon was selected on plant characteristics including improved disease and pest resistance. Icon is a very good dual purpose hay, silage and grazing cultivar because of its resistance to grazing which it was bred for, from selections of fields grazed by sheep and cattle. Icon has low crowns that will tolerate closer grazing, particularly by sheep.

- High yielding with strong summer growth, vigorous recovery from cutting or grazing.
- Strong summer growth.
- Early flowering, with excellent disease and pest resistance.
- High leaf to stem ratio.
- Suitable for hay, silage and high grazing tolerance.

Disease and pest resistance of Icon and SuperSonic.

	Spotted Aphid	Blue Aphid	Pea Aphid	Pythophthora	Anthrachnose
Icon	HR	HR	R	HR	MR
SuperSonic	R	HR	R	HR	MR

Key :

HR – Highly resistant

R – Resistant

MR – Moderate resistance

Independent tests for levels of resistance in both Icon and SuperSonic were conducted by Crop Characteristics Inc. MN, USA to international standards.

Trial results.

In a trial established in Keith South Australia in 2003, the performance of 28 varieties and elite lines were compared in an irrigated replicated field trial. The highest yielding varieties over three cuts in this trial in 2003-04 included SuperSonic. Icon was 10% higher in yield than other comparable varieties.

in 2008 both SuperSonic and Icon were placed in two trial sites in Canterbury. One irrigated site at Alysbury and a dry land site in Greendale.

These trials are run by an independent company and will be conducted to the highest industry standards. As results become available they will be posted on our web site www.specseed.co.nz