PRODUCT
INFO

BABALA

PENNISETUM

Babala is an annual sub-tropical grass suitable for silage and grazing.
Ideal planting time ranges from October to December.

CHARACTERISTICS

Botanical name:	*Pennisetum glaucum*
Type:	Sub-tropical, Grass
Production period:	Summer, Annual
Morphological description:	• Erect, robust, with tillers, 1.5 – 3.5 m tall • Leaf blade is glabrous or hairy; linear to linear-lanceolate; flat; 20 – 100 cm x 8 – 80 mm • Cylindrical or conical shaped seeds; 2 - 3 mm long; white, pearl coloured to blue-grey or brown • 50 000 – 70 000 seeds/kg
Crop strengths:	• Adapted to low fertility soils • Does not cause prussic acid poisoning, good grazing • Good drought tolerance
Feeding value:	• Crude protein: 8 - 17 % • Digestibility: 52 – 58 %
Production potential:	• Dry matter production: 5 – 18 t/ha/annum
Uses:	• Grazing, silage
Soil requirements:	• Widely adapted to most soil types, avoid waterlogging • pH range of 5.5 – 7.5
Establishment:	• Plant during October – December • Seeding rate of 8 – 15 kg/ha dryland and 15 – 25 kg/ha irrigated

PASTURES

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