



Native Grass Establishment





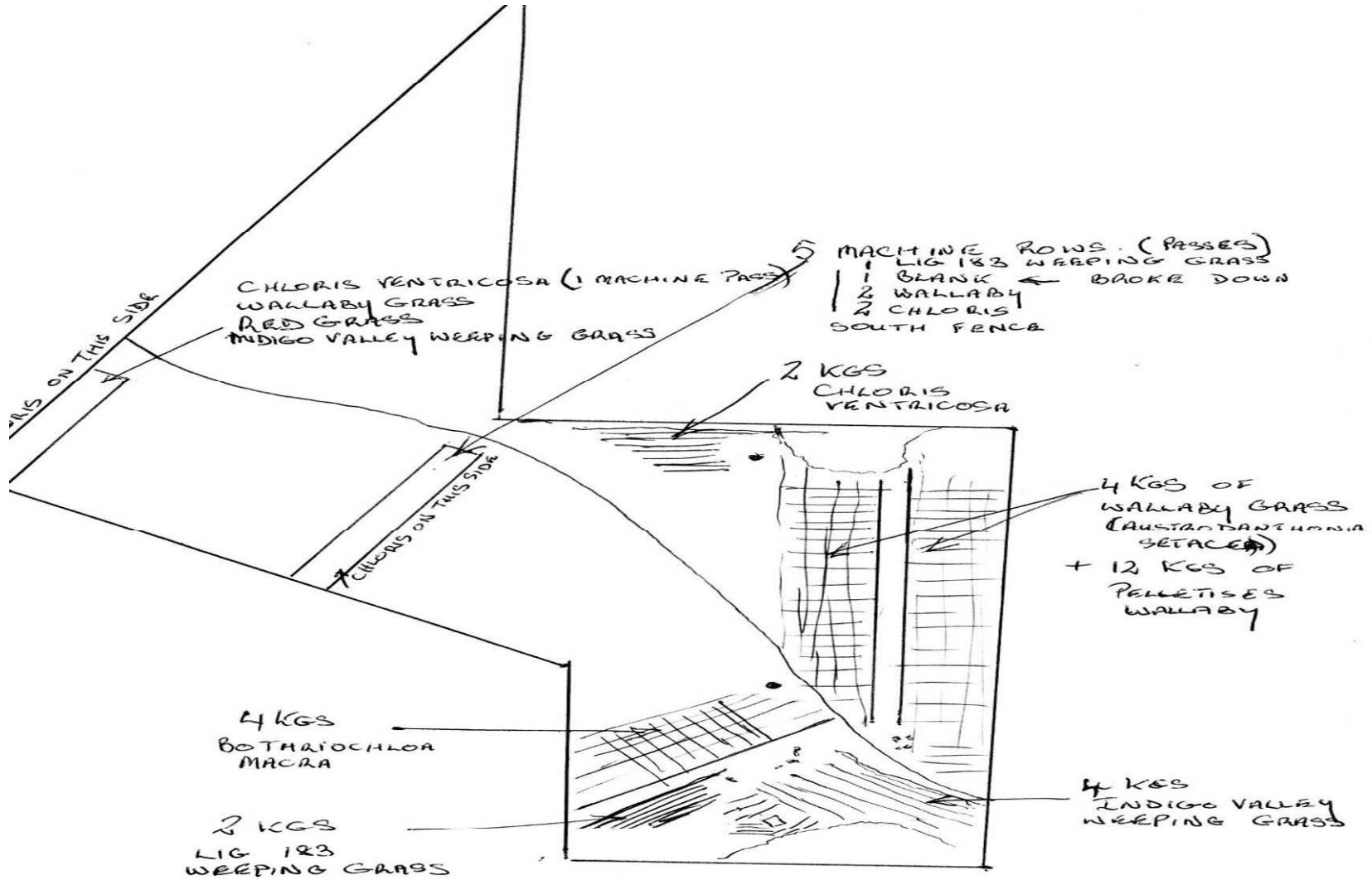














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Points to Consider

- Select an area for native grass establishment
- Graze heavily in spring and autumn to stop seed set
- Keep grass weeds down
- Use chemicals if you are comfortable with their use
- Only do small areas to begin with (1 to 2 ha)
- Past cropping paddocks usually have reduced grass competition
- Last years cropping paddock usually has good conditions for sowing



***Austrodanthonia setacea* (Wallaby Grass)**





Bothriochloa macra (Red Grass)





Dichanthium sericeum (Silky Blue Grass)





Emerging *Microlaena stipoides* (Weeping Grass)





Chloris ventricosa (Tall Chloris)





Themeda trianda (Kangaroo Grass)





***Austrostipa elegantissima* (Feather Speargrass)**





Austrostipa densiflora (Foxtail Speargrass)





Bothriochloa macra

C4 perennial

Identification Tips

Tufted, warm season perennial grass

Leaves generally grow quite flat to ground, especially when grazed

Leaves stems often reddish or purplish, especially after frost. Nodes red and hairless

Seedhead consists of 2-4 erect branches (3-8 cm long) pressed close together

Seeds are awned

Flowers in summer and autumn

Climatic and Soil Requirements

Wide tolerance of soil types, except for very acid soils (pH < 4.2)

Highly drought tolerant, but frost sensitive

Grazing and Nutritional Value

Moderate grazing value, but low when frosted

Digestibility ranges from 48-69%

Crude protein 4-15%



Bothriochloa macra

Management strategies

Tolerates disturbance, one of the first native plants to return to drought affected areas

A valuable coloniser of degraded areas and useful for stabilising waterways

Can produce large amounts of material, the majority of which is stem

Can produce quality feed after summer rain- is best utilised at this time

Responsive to fertiliser and grazing pressure, but grows well in unfertilized areas

Best kept green and leafy as is has a high stem to leaf ratio when flowering & stock tend to avoid once it goes to seed. Rotational grazing can control this

Graze heavily late winter to mid spring to avoid clover & grass dominance

To increase seed density allow to seed in summer & rest pasture late summer



Dichanthium sericeum

C4 perennial

Identification tips

Tufted, warm season perennial grass to 80 cm tall. Stem nodes have prominent ring of hairs

Seedhead subdigitate, to 70 cm long & with 2-4 erect branches pressed together

Spikelets are paired & hairy, with lower awned. Spikelets occur to the base of the branches

Flowers from late spring to autumn

Climatic Conditions

Widespread and common

Most common on clay soils and sites that receive extra summer moisture, such as run off

Abundance varies from year to year, restricted to more favourable sites in dry years

Can become abundant following a series of wet summers

Moderate drought tolerance, but low frost tolerance

Grazing and Nutritional Values

Moderate grazing value

Digestibility ranges 38-62%

Crude protein 2-7%



Dichanthium sericeum

Management Strategies

Highly palatable and nutritious when young & actively growing

Stalky & low quality when flowering

Possibly more suited to cattle enterprises

Growth responds to increased fertility, declines under set stocking as cattle selectively graze. Better suited to rotational grazing

Will easily re-establish from seed, so spelling during seed set increases or maintains populations

Acknowledgements

“Grassed Up” A publication by the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Agriculture











“Patience is a Virtue”

In Establishing Native Pastures Back into the Landscape

Patience is an Imperative!

“Patience is necessary, and one cannot reap where one has sown”

Quote from Soren Kiekegaard-Danish Philosopher 1813-1855

“Patience is the ability to idle your motor while you feel like stripping your gears”

Barbara Johnson-American Best Selling Author

Thank You