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## Forage Sorghum – *Sorghum spp*

SS 1000

SS 1000 is a variety of Forage Sorghum - an erect, annual, summer grass. The variety's widely adapted, but thrives in hot areas. SS 1000 is a hybrid and consists of a Sorghum X Sorghum X Sudan grass hybrids. It is an early flowering hybrid, which usually grows fast, leading to a short growing season. SS 1000 is drought tolerant and can produce with rainfall as low as 350 – 400 mm per year, or under irrigation for more intensive production systems.



### Strengths

- Up to 35 t DM/ha/season.
- **Depending on environmental conditions and management**
- High producing crop on fertile soils
- Establishes easily followed by rapid growth.
- Planted as nurse crop with perennial grasses
- Drought tolerant
- Good quality forage

### Limitations

- Demands high soil fertility
- Can cause Prussic acid poisoning.





## What can it be used for?

**Grazing:** In grazing systems, early flowering Sorghum-Sudan grass crossing are some of the quickest with regards to the days-to-first-graze and regrowth after each graze.

**Cut-and-carry:** Hybrids producing abundant leaf material with thin stems, are suitable to utilize successfully as green chop.

## Establishment

**Climate:** SS 1000 performs best in warm areas. Optimal emergence can be achieved at soil temperatures of 18 °C minimum

**Moisture:** Under dry land conditions, good production is achieved at a minimum rainfall of 600 mm per annum, but it can be successfully cultivated in areas with rainfall as low as 350 – 400 mm per annum.

**Soil:** SS 1000 does best on clay/ loamy soils with pH (KCl) > 5, and acid saturation < 15%. It can tolerate some salinity, but not waterlogging.

**Fertilization:** SS 1000 does not have a high fertility requirement to survive, but reacts well to fertilizer application if water is not limiting. A soil analysis before establishment is essential <sup>(1, 2, 3)</sup>.

	N (kg/ha)	P (mg/kg soil)	K (mg/kg soil)
Requirement for establishment***	20-40*	15-20	80-120
Seasonal application (kg/ha)	40-160**	Use removal rates	
Production - Removal rates (kg/ton):			
Good quality fodder	30	2.4	28
Average quality fodder	18	1.6	18
Poor quality fodder	7	0.7	8

\*Fertilizer just after establishment (kg/ha)

\*\*Selected rate should maximise profit

\*\*\*Determined by production potential



Our prescribed  
seeding rate:

	Annual rainfall	Row establishment <sup>(1, 2)</sup>	Broadcasting <sup>(1, 2)</sup>
<b>Low</b>	< 500 mm	4-8 kg/ha (1.2 – 1.5 m rows)	
<b>Medium</b>	500 - 700 mm	8-15 kg/ha (0.8 – 1.2 m rows)	
<b>High &amp; Irrigation</b>	> 700 mm	15-25 kg/ha (0.4 - 0.8 m rows)	25 kg/ha

**SS 1000 have a 1000 seed weight of 29.2g**

## Management

**Utilization:** Graze when the stand is 750 – 800 mm in height (1000 mm at the highest). Graze to no lower than 250 mm. This will keep the stand in a vegetative stage. By keeping the stand vegetative, waste caused by trampling is also reduced. It is very important to manage early flowering types. If allowed to flower, regrowth is severely compromised.

## Cultivars

### **SS 1000**

<b>Plant Height</b>	2.19 m	<b>Leaf – length</b>	78 cm
<b>Panicle length</b>	34cm	<b>Leaf Width</b>	7.9 cm

SS 1000 is, an early flowering Sorghum X Sudan grass cultivar .50% flowering stage can be reached within 70-80 days when established early in spring. This is however subject to climate, growing environment and management.