



BMR Octane

HIGH ENERGY FUEL FOR LIVESTOCK

BROWN MID RIB SORGHUM X SUDAN HYBRID

BMR Octane has the BMR gene giving improved digestibility and palatability (the benefits of BMR gene are explained below.)

In comparison to Pacific BMR, advanced experimental hybrid BMR Octane is:

- Longer in maturity - stays vegetative for longer
- Shows better establishment under marginal moisture conditions
- Shows slightly better dry matter production

Good standability

Very sweet stems, particularly in older growth.

What is BMR?

The abbreviation BMR stands for brown mid rib, and refers to the colour of the middle rib in the leaves. In non BMR sorghum the middle ribs are usually green or white.

What are the benefits of BMR?

Forage sorghum developed and bred to contain the BMR gene, has less lignin and will be more digestible to stock. Having less lignin also means the plants are softer and easier for stock to graze. The net outcome of all this is animal productivity can be increased from this type of forage.

Is there more than one type of BMR?

Yes, there are a number of BMR genes originally developed at a prominent North American University. The nutritional benefits do vary with these different genes. Pacific Seeds has chosen BMR genes to provide the best combination of increased digestibility and agronomic performance.

Will stems show some brown too?

They can, particularly on the lower sections of stem above each node. In BMR Octane there is usually a strong brown colour on stems.



VARIETY INFORMATION TECHNOTE

Do BMR plants have softer stems?

Yes, the BMR advantage will be in both leaves and stems. Conventional forage sorghum stems can become increasingly hard with advancing height and maturity, but BMR stems will be softer and easier for stock to eat.

What about standability?

Lodging can be a problem with some BMR varieties, if they are allowed to grow well beyond their ideal grazing height. In the Pacific Seeds Forage Breeding Program, good standability is an important breeding objective. Parent lines and hybrids are evaluated for standability under a range of environmental conditions.

Pacific Seeds' BMR hybrids

Laboratory analyses of BMR Octane show a digestibility advantage over other hybrids of 3-6%. This improved digestibility translates to an extra 0.3-0.7 MJ/kg in metabolisable energy (ME) value.

Maturity

BMR Octane is later flowering than traditional forage sorghum. In south east Queensland, BMR Octane sown in October will normally reach mid-flower in approximately 89 days (early to mid January).

Sweet stems

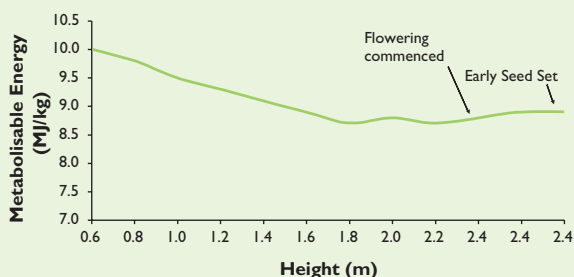
BMR Octane is significantly sweeter than other sorghum x sudan hybrids. This difference becomes more noticeable in the older growth. This results in increased palatability plus increased feed energy value.

Suitable for grazing, hay, greenchop or silage

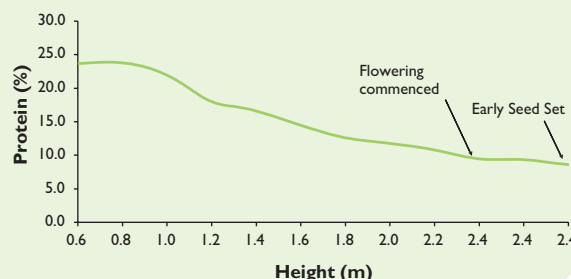
BMR Octane is suitable for intensive or range grazing, greenchop, hay or silage. For pit silage allow the crop to flower before cutting.



BMR Octane Metabolisable Energy vs height



BMR Octane Protein vs height



Results from a trial conducted by Pacific Seeds' Forage Research Team showing the effect of growth stage on crude protein and metabolisable energy of BMR Octane. Sampling started when the crop was 0.6m and continued at regular intervals for eight weeks until plants had flowered.

PLANT TYPE AND PLANTING INFORMATION					PLANTING RATES			FEED QUALITY		
	Genetic type	Time to flower	Soil temp required for sowing	Seed count (seeds/kg)	Marginal dryland (kg/ha)	Favourable dryland (kg/ha)	Irrigation or high rainfall (kg/ha)	Digestibility %	Protein %	Ideal grazing height
BMR Octane	Sorghum x sudan	late	Above 16°C	30-36,000	3-5	5-10	15-20	59-65	12-18	1 metre

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