

# Sub Clover

Increasing production  
with subterranean clovers



getting the

# best sub clover results

## 1. Site preparation

- > The methods of site preparation will depend on the topography of the site and previous use (e.g. cropping or pasture).

### Weed control

- > Sub clover is a poor competitor and sensitive to shading, so effective weed control is essential for successful establishment.

### Cultivation

- > On flat to rolling terrain, normal fine, firm seed bed recommendations apply.

## 2. When to sow

- > Sub clover should be sown in autumn. Soil moisture is an important environmental factor for germination so seed should be sown between late February and mid-April in response to individual summer rainfall pattern and soil moisture accumulated during any summer fallow. Sub clover should not be sown in spring as it is unlikely to set seed before summer drought.

## 3. Sowing

- > The need to sow sub can be determined by the lack of it. If you can walk across the paddock in September without standing on sub clover at each step you have not got enough. You either have a poorly adapted cultivar and/or what you have has been mismanaged.

### Seed sowing methods

- > The method of sowing sub clover seed in dryland pastures depends on the topography.
- Direct drilling  
If possible, sub clover seed should be drilled rather than broadcast. This is because the seed is adapted to germinate from seed burrs buried in the top 10 mm of soil.
- Broadcasting  
In steep hill country areas, aircraft are used to spread seed by over-sowing. It is recognised that rates of establishment using over-sowing are usually much lower compared with drilling.

### What rate to sow

- > Cultivars differ in seed size but in most cases there are only 15 seeds per square metre for each kilogram sown. Therefore 10 kg per hectare will give about 100 established plants per square metre.

