

# FINECUT and TOPCUT RHODES GRASS

*result in spectacular increases  
in dry matter production*

A BREEDING programme in Queensland resulted in remarkable improvements to the earlier Rhodes grass cultivars, Katambora and Pioneer. The breeding objectives included fine stems, tolerance to saline conditions, uniform maturity, leafiness and high dry matter yields.

The resulting releases Finecut and Topcut Rhodes Grass have high salt tolerance and uniform maturity making them ideal for grazing and hay production. Finecut has produced up to 23% more dry matter than commercial Katambora from which it was bred. Topcut has produced up to 11% more dry matter than Callide.

Their current usage in pasture systems in Western Australia has proven to be very successful especially in areas where summer rainfall events have occurred and this has resulted in increasing demand each year as farmers try and drought proof their systems.

The increased salt tolerance and more erect growth could make these varieties suitable for irrigation where the water is slightly saline as well as in their normal role as perennial pasture plants in dry land conditions in WA.

Topcut Rhodes Grass is more erect than, with slightly broader leaves than Finecut Rhodes Grass but is still substantially finer than other varieties existing varieties.



▲  
*Finecut Rhodes grass pasture shut for hay*



◀  
*Topcut Rhodes grass showing the density of plant population*

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