

## COCKSFOOT, CV. MEGATAS <sup>Ⓛ</sup>

*(Dactylis glomerata L.)*

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### ORIGIN

**Recurrent phenotypic selection:** 4 cycles of recurrent phenotypic selection for seedling vigour, early tillering of seedlings and a more prostrate growth habit from accession K2725, collected as seed by Margot Forde near Silva, La Coruña, Spain (43° 09'N 8° 25'W), 1989.

**Selection criteria:** vigour, seedling vigour, early tillering of seedlings, uniform flowering time and a more prostrate growth habit.

**Propagation:** seed.

**Breeders:** Eric Hall and Andrea Hurst, Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research, Mt Pleasant Laboratories, Launceston, Tasmania.

### DESCRIPTION

**Ploidy:** tetraploid.

**Foliage:** fineness broad.

**Plant type:** perennial forage grass,

**Persistence:** persistent.

### MAJOR ATTRIBUTES

Megatas <sup>Ⓛ</sup> was selected for its excellent seedling vigour and increased leafiness and vigour with a low crown. It is highly summer active producing a large bulk of highly palatable, high protein, high-energy forage all year round with a high level of digestibility and nutritive value.

### SEASONAL PRODUCTION

Megatas <sup>Ⓛ</sup> is highly summer active, but produces a large bulk of forage all year round.

### DROUGHT TOLERANCE

Plants in trials have shown they can tolerate moderate levels of moisture stress.

### COLD TOLERANCE

Moderate. Suffers frost damage if frosts greater -3° C.

### WATERLOGGING TOLERANCE

Will tolerate short periods of waterlogging.

### **SALT TOLERANCE**

Low.

### **SOIL AND CLIMATE REQUIREMENTS**

Adapted for sowing into all well drained soil types of moderate to high fertility, in medium to high rainfall temperate areas receiving 600+mm average annual rainfall.

### **MATURITY**

Flowers a few days later than Porto. Seed matures late January/early February.

### **SEED SIZE**

Thousand seed weight 1.02gms (Porto 0.71gms).

### **SEED TREATMENT**

None required.

### **SOWING METHODS**

Drilled, direct drilled or broadcast.

### **SOWING DEPTH**

No deeper than 10mm.

### **SOWING RATE**

2 – 5kg/ha.

### **SOWING TIME**

Suitable for sowing in autumn or spring with other forage grasses and legumes.

### **LAND PREPARATION**

Well-cultivated firm seedbed required for best results. For direct drilling or broadcasting there should be as little vegetation as possible and adequate soil moisture prior to sowing.

### **COMPATIBILITY WITH OTHER SPECIES**

Suitable for sowing with other forage grasses and legumes with high seedling vigour. May out compete some slower establishing species.

### **SUGGESTED MIX**

Megatas<sup>Ⓛ</sup> (when available) and Astred<sup>Ⓛ</sup> stoloniferous red clover.

### **SEEDLING VIGOUR**

Excellent seedling vigour when compared to other cocksfoot varieties.

### **GRAZING MANAGEMENT**

To maintain the high feed quality of this cultivar grazing should take place prior to the plants reaching 5-leaf stage. Best suited to a high input rotational cattle grazing system, although will persist if closely grazed by sheep.

### **DRY MATTER YIELD**

Up to 16 t/ha DM achieved under irrigation.

### **FEED VALUE**

High, declining slowly with maturity.

### **TYPICAL FEED TEST FIGURES**

Crude protein (%DM)	22.2
Digestibility (%digestible DM)	77.5
Metabolizable energy (MJ/kg DM)	11.4

### **ANTI QUALITY FACTORS**

None known.

### **SEED HARVEST METHODS**

Direct heading. Seed sheds when mature.

### **SEED YIELDS**

Yields around 800 kg/ha are achievable.

### **DISEASES**

Minor cases of rust have been observed on some plants in wet summers.

### **PESTS**

none known