

# Faecal Seeding with Progardes® Desmanthus

*Sustain your pastures and boost your productivity*



## How does faecal seeding work?

Progardes® Desmanthus seed can be purchased as hard seed suitable for faecal seeding. The hard seed coat protects the seed from germination as it passes through the animal's gastro intestinal tract\*. The seed then sits in a viable state in the dung ready to germinate when conditions are suitable.

\*Progardes® is also available in scarified format for rapid germination. Scarified seed is not suitable for faecal seeding as it will not survive the gastro-intestinal tract in a viable state.

### Progardes® Desmanthus is well-suited to faecal seeding

- ✓ natural hard seed coat
- ✓ untreated
- ✓ palatable
- ✓ excellent seed recruitment



Progardes® is a blend of Desmanthus cultivars selected and bred by James Cook University for semi-arid grazing regions with clay-rich neutral to alkaline soils. Progardes® Desmanthus is persistent and naturally adapted to a broad range of harsh conditions across northern Australia.

Progardes® Desmanthus is available in untreated unscarified hard seed format.

## When should faecal seeding be used?

Using livestock to distribute seed can be an effective tool in a well managed grazing system. Our studies have demonstrated Progardes® is well suited to dispersal by cattle and horses. Using goats or sheep is not recommended as viability of seed is too low after passing through the gastro-intestinal tract of goats and sheep.

Faecal seeding of Progardes® is suited to lower rainfall (400-550mm per annum), particularly where rainfall is variable and with uncertain follow-up falls. Spreading seed using livestock can be used for steep, timbered or rocky country where tillage or mechanical seeding is not an option.

If you want to achieve establishment more rapidly, we recommend a proactive approach to faecal seeding. See over for information on how to use livestock to spread Progardes® or call us to discuss the best method for your paddock!

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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# How to plant Progardes® Desmanthus using faecal seeding

Progardes® hard seed should be added into your lick tubs during the feeding period at a recommended seeding rate of 2kg/ha. Progardes® hard seed can be mixed with molasses or dry lick. The quantity of seed required for your paddock will depend on the paddock area and the length of the feeding period. The longer your feed period, the better the establishment.

Working out how much seed you to put out each time you refill your lick tub:

- Step 1** Paddock Area x Seeding rate (2kg) = Total Seed Required
- Step 2** Total Seed ÷ Feed period (days) = Qty seed required per day
- Step 3** Qty seed per day ÷ No. of tubs = Qty seed required per day per tub

## Example Faecal Seeding Program

**Paddock Area** 100 hectares  
**Seed rate/ha** 2kg  
**Feed Period** 120 days (17 weeks)  
**No. of Tubs** 4 tubs (the more tubs, the better the dispersal)

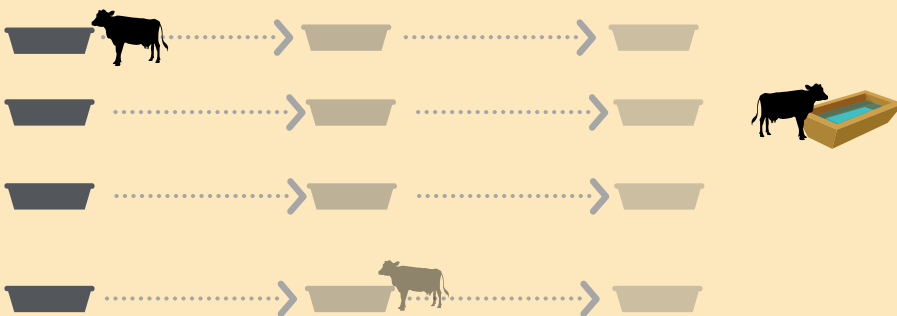
- Step 1** Total Seed Required = 100 x 2kg = 200kg
- Step 2** Total Seed ÷ Feed period = 200 ÷ 120 days = 1.6 kg seed per day
- Step 3** Qty seed required per day ÷ No. of tubs = 1.6 kg ÷ 4 tubs = 400 grams per tub per day

How much seed will I need in my tubs each week?

Simply multiply Step 3 by 7 to work out your weekly seed quantity = 400 grams x 7 days = 2.8 kg per tub per week

## For Best Results

- Start with your lick tubs as far away from troughs as possible
- Move empty tubs to a new location closer towards water before refilling
- Refill seed in tubs twice a week



### First week

Place lick tubs at furthest point from water trough; move every week

### Second week

Move lick tubs closer towards water point

### Subsequent weeks

Keep moving lick tubs every week through to end of feeding period

## Achieving Even Dispersal of Seed Across the Paddock

Proactive management of lick feeding and livestock grazing patterns will increase the likelihood of successful pasture establishment.

Use these tips to ensure even dispersal of seed across your paddock.

- Use several lick tubs. The more tubs the better the dispersal. Using smaller tubs (100L) is also recommended
- Place lick tubs as far apart from each other, and from water troughs, as possible. This ensures cattle will walk between troughs, dispersing seed/pats widely
- Move empty tubs to a new location (400m away) each week before refilling
- Mix Progardes® well through your lick when filling tubs
- Manage watering points if possible (turn on/off) to encourage cattle to move around the paddock. This will aid seed dispersal.



**Agrimix**

Science, Integrity, Results



It is essential that Progardes® Desmanthus is planted in accordance with the Progardes® Desmanthus Establishment Guide which can be found on our website using this QR code. All sales of Progardes® are subject to Terms of Supply, which can also be accessed via this QR code.

Disclaimer: All information, including any trial results, provided by Agrimix is considered accurate at the time of publication. The performance and results achieved using Progardes® may vary depending on factors including climatic conditions, soil composition, application methods and farming practices.

Progardes® is a composite of Desmanthus varieties and includes materials covered by Plant Breeders' Rights (refer to the packing label on seed bag for details). Plant Breeders' Rights provide exclusive commercial rights and control over the materials which they cover. Unauthorised commercial propagation or any sale, conditioning, export, import or stocking of propagating material is an infringement under the Plant Breeder's Rights Act 1994 (Cth). PROGARDES is a Registered Trademark owned by Agrimix Pty Ltd.

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