



## PENNISETUM: **BABALA**

*Pennisetum glaucum*

### PRODUCTION POTENTIAL:

- Dry matter production: 5 – 15 t/ha/annum

### TYPE

- Sub-tropical / Tropical Grass

### PRODUCTION PERIOD

- Annual, Summer

### STRENGTHS:

- Adapted to low fertility soils
- Does not cause prussic acid poisoning, good grazing
- Good drought tolerance

### FEEDING VALUE:

- Crude protein: 4 - 12 %
- Digestibility: 50 – 57 %

### USES:

- Grazing, silage

### SOIL REQUIREMENTS:

- Widely adapted to most soil types, avoid waterlogging
- pH range of 5.5 – 7.5

### ESTABLISHMENT:

- Plant during October – January
- Seeding rate of 8 – 15 kg/ha dryland and 15 – 25 kg/ha irrigated

### MORPHOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

- Erect, robust, with tillers, 1.5 – 3.5 m tall
- Leaf blade is glabrous or hairy; linear to linear-lanceolate; flat; 20 – 100 cm x 8 – 80 mm
- Cylindrical or conical shaped seeds; 2 - 3 mm long; white, pearl- coloured to blue-grey or brown; 50 000 – 70 000 seeds/kg