

facilitating an earlier turnoff of steers, better weaner and breeder nutrition as well as a high carrying capacity. He is achieving this by implementing a combination of low, medium and high input pasture systems according to soil fertility, slope and required use.

His innovative nature has been demonstrated in his development of erosion-prone, sloping native pasture country using a strip planting technique. Broad strips 7–8 m apart alternating with similar sized native pasture strips, are cultivated across the slope. Several key strips are surveyed on the contour and intervening strips are run parallel to these. Drainage lines and waterways are left undisturbed. Only two disc ploughings are given with planting and covering of seed incorporated in the second operation. A common pasture mixture used is Callide Rhodes,

Hatch bluegrass, Seca stylo, Wynn cassia and Siratro. A key feature of management is late summer/autumn spelling to allow seeding. This has resulted in the spread of sown species through the native pasture strips.

This technology has wide application in coastal Central Queensland. Bruce has shown it to be easy to achieve with readily available equipment, that it is relatively inexpensive and limits erosion.

Bruce is an active community and industry leader in the region as his contribution to Local Government, UGA and Calliope Soil Conservation Association testifies.

The Award recognises this leadership which has contributed greatly towards the development and promotion of successful pasture technology in Central Queensland.

Book reviews

Lucerne Management Handbook — Second Edition

(Edited by Peter J.M. Thompson and Colin J. Paull). Queensland Department of Primary Industries Conference and Workshop Series. 1990. 56 pp. A\$15.

The other day I was asked, quite out of the blue, to give an opinion on how many hectares of lucerne, cut for hay, would be needed to provide a decent income for someone who was considering leaving the ratrace and was thinking about becoming a lucerne grower. Luckily, this Handbook was on my desk, and within a couple of minutes I was able to give him some basic figures on expected gross margins.

The first edition of this Handbook was produced following a workshop in 1982. The present second edition is a welcome update. There are 12 chapters, all by QDPI authors, covering a wide range of aspects of lucerne usage, from varietal selection, controlling insect pests, weed control, fertilizer management, irrigation, haymaking techniques, grazing management, and economics. They are written in an easy-to-read style, and manage to convey the technical information in a form that is readily understood. There are 25

colour plates illustrating various pests and diseases, and a useful disease key.

There is inevitably a certain degree of overlap between some of these chapters, particularly "Selecting the right lucerne", "Dormancy and Growth Patterns", and "Persistence and Production". However, the advice given is always sound, often detailed (e.g. four pages of information on chemicals for weed control in lucerne) and internally consistent. A useful touch is the inclusion of a Farmnote with the latest cultivar and management recommendations in a pocket on the back cover, where it can be updated readily in the future.

I found few errors, although it is *Stemphylium* leaf spot that is illustrated in Plate 23, not black stem as suggested in the text. I am not sure if the "fine-tuned" implements referred to in the weed control chapter should perhaps be "fine tined"!

This is indeed a useful publication; it has attained the editors' stated aim of being a current and comprehensive reference work for both experienced and new lucerne growers. I suggested to my afore-mentioned enquirer that he should buy his own copy forthwith.

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