

Exploring novel treatments to improve veldt production

NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAM SMART FARMS SMALL GRANTS - AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

BACKGROUND

With the observations being made at Menalbyn in 2021, farmers were keen to see if these results could be replicated in other areas, so a demonstration site was established at Mount Charles looking at the use of Giberellic Acid (GA) as a stand alone product compared with other foliar treatments to see if they could be cost-effective solutions to increasing veldt production on sandy soils.

SOIL FERTILITY SNAPSHOT

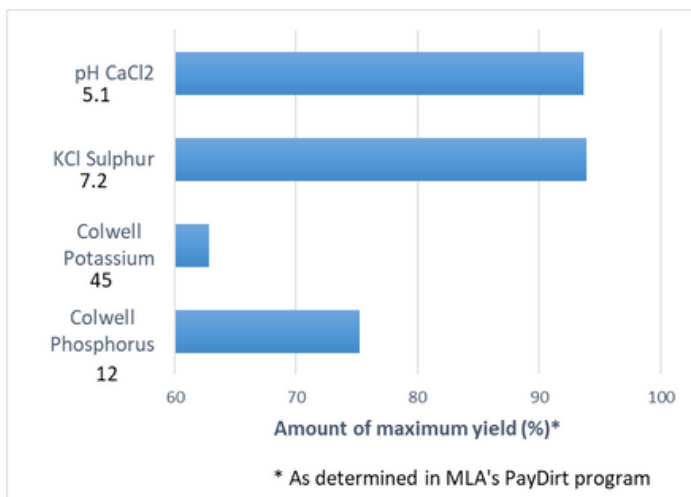


Figure 1. Soil Test results (0-10cm)

SITE ACTIVITIES

Soil Tests were taken on a transect across the site area as a representative sample. All treatments were applied on 18/7/22 by boomspray with a control strip between each treatment for comparison. Treatment 1: Giberellic Acid Treatment 2: Amino Boost Max Treatment 3: Momentum ZnP Pasture cuts were taken approximately 6 weeks later on 28/8/22 with dry matter production and feed test data collected.



Figure 2. Site photo taken prior to sampling; GA treatment in foreground

RESULTS

Pasture assessments were taken and a sub-sample sent away for Feed Test analysis. The Giberellic Acid provided the greatest increase in biomass production (Figure 3), however the quality of the feed was reduced - particularly when compared to the Amino Boost Max (Figure 4). The control production measured was 1300kg DM/ha on the 28/8/22.

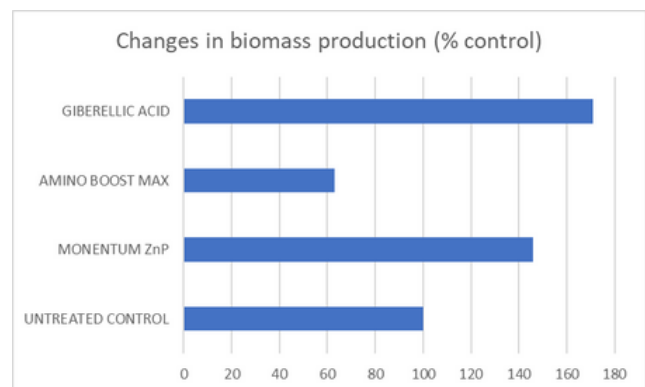


Figure 3. Changes in biomass production as a % of the untreated control

	CONTROL	Momentum ZnP	Amino Boost Max	Giberellic Acid
Dry Matter (%)	49.3	51.3	37.1	35.9
Crude Protein (%)	5.6	4.2	9.9	7.1
NDF (%)	72.4	76.1	66.5	73.2
DMD (%)	46.5	44.5	53.4	49.9
Est.ME (MJ/kg DM)	6.4	6	7.6	7

Figure 4. Differences in key feed quality factors between treatments

