

# The role of giberellic acid mixes in improving veldt production

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

## BACKGROUND

The Cartledge family have been farming Menalbyn since it was cleared. Over that time pasture mixes have changed, but veldt grass has become an integral part of their pasture along with lucerne on which they graze their cattle.

Two years ago, they sprayed some strips of giberellic acid (GA) and other products across some veldt pastures to see if they could improve their winter feed production. The initial results were encouraging, so a more formal demonstration was established to quantify these responses and see if they were repeatable.

## SOIL FERTILITY SNAPSHOT

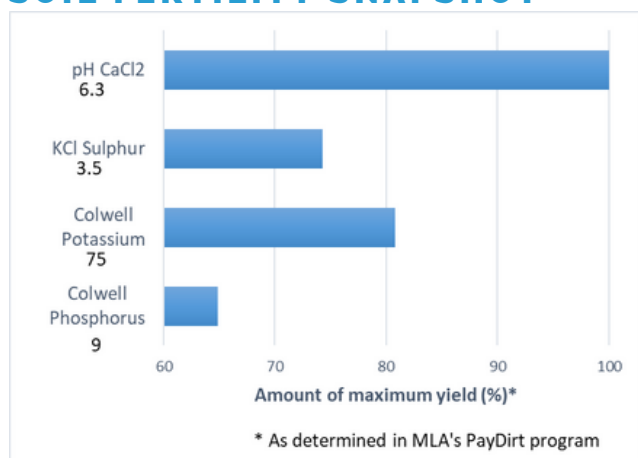


Figure 1. Average soil test results (0-10cm)

## SITE ACTIVITIES

The site was soil tested on a zone basis to see how the site varied across different production zones. The average results (across 4 zones) are those presented in Figure 1.

Foliar treatments were then applied (2 different timings) and plant biomass measured prior to grazing.



Figure 2. Visual response to treatment (RHS)

Tmt 1: Untreated Control

Tmt 2: SOA Applied 24/5/22 + Giberellic acid, UAN, Manganese, Copper, Zinc and Fulvic acid applied on 23/6/22.

Tmt 3: SOA Applied 24/5/22

## RESULTS

Pasture assessments were conducted on 26/7/2022 to measure differences between treatments. They show a large increase in biomass production on low fertility soil in that critical winter period when feed is often lacking. (Control = 740 kg DM/ha)

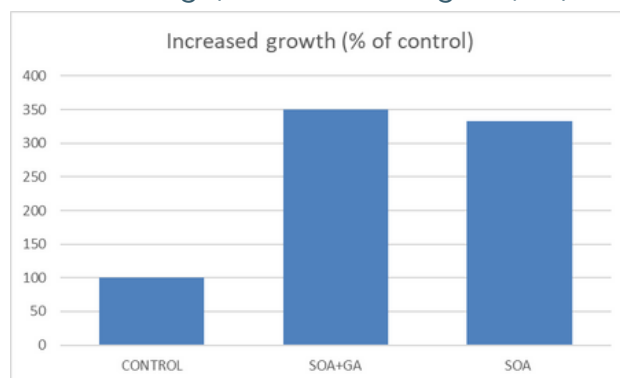


Figure 3. Biomass responses to treatments

Later applications (end of July) of the GA mix resulted in an increase in production but it wasn't as great as the earlier timing.

