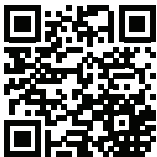



# INOCULATING LEGUMES



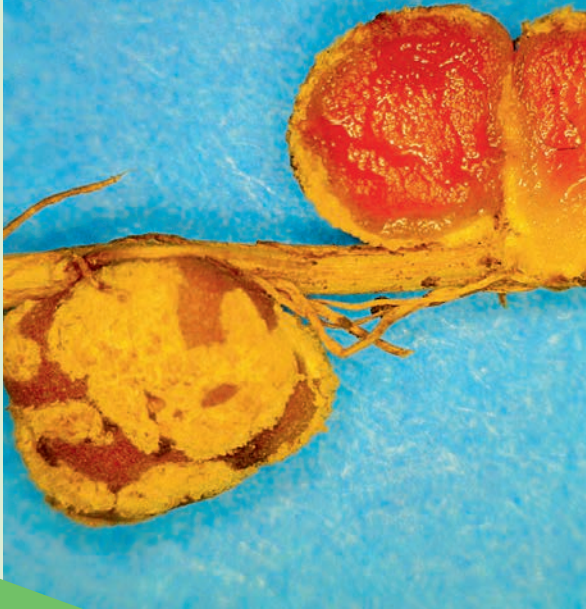
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# THE BACK POCKET GUIDE

Mungbean nodules showing pink (nitrogen-fixing) interior



## Rhizobia

- Rhizobia are living micro-organisms (also called root-nodule bacteria)
- Nodules on legume roots contain rhizobia, which fix nitrogen from the air
- Each type of legume is nodulated by a specific type of rhizobia, which are identified as belonging to different “Inoculant Groups”
- Rhizobia in inoculants do not survive well in extremes of temperature (over 30°C and at freezing temperatures) or drying conditions that lead to desiccation
- Different legume–rhizobia associations will tolerate different soil conditions. Generally rhizobia preferences are similar to those of the legume host
  - medic, pea, faba bean and chickpea rhizobia prefer neutral to alkaline soils (pH  $\text{CaCl}_2$  6.0 – 7.5)
  - lupin rhizobia tolerate acid soils (pH  $\text{CaCl}_2$  less than 6.0)

Non-nodulated soybean (right front)  
and well-nodulated soybean (left rear)



## Inoculation benefits

- Inoculated legumes will fix 25kg of nitrogen per tonne of legume shoot dry matter, on average
- Low soil nitrate levels, good nodulation and agronomic practices that promote high legume production all increase N inputs from N fixation
- Decomposing legume residues are a good source of slow-release nitrogen for a following crop
- Economic benefits of legumes in crop production systems can be substantial, both from N fixation and the disease-break effect
- For example: Inoculated faba beans in western Victoria yielded 2.7t/ha (1 t/ha more than the uninoculated crop) and added 180kg/ha of extra fixed nitrogen to the soil



## Getting inoculation right

- Use quality inoculants (the Green Tick logo is a trademark of AIRG\* approval)
- Match the correct inoculant group to each legume
- Inoculants contain LIVE bacteria: make sure they are kept in moderate temperatures (less than 30°C, not frozen) away from sunlight and chemicals
- Sow freshly inoculated seed as soon as possible and definitely within 24 hours of inoculation
- Use clean potable water for dilution when using liquids or slurries, and make sure holding tanks are free from chemical and fertiliser residues
- Many pesticides, mineral and organic fertilisers are toxic to rhizobia and should never be mixed with rhizobia
- Rhizobia can be compatible with seed pickles or dressings for a limited time prior to sowing (see *Inoculating legumes: a practical guide* (2012) for manufacturer's guidelines and Table 5.4 in Resource #1). Always apply the seed dressing first and allow it to fully dry before applying the rhizobia as a second process
- Always use inoculants before their expiry date
- Reseal opened bags of peat inoculant and use them within 2 weeks of first opening the bag

\* Australian Inoculants Research Group

## USING DIFFERENT INOCULANT FORMULATIONS

	PEAT	FREEZE-DRIED	GRANULAR
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Finely ground sterilised peat containing a high density of rhizobia	Powder containing a very high density of rhizobia	Granules of peat or clay or a mixture; contain a lower number of rhizobia per gram
<b>STORAGE</b>	Winter legume inoculants – refrigerate at 4°C; summer legume inoculants – store in cool, dry place	Refrigerate at 4°C DO NOT FREEZE	Store in a cool and dry place away from direct sunlight
<b>COMMON APPLICATION</b>	Mix with clean water to make a slurry, apply direct to seed (except for peanut). Can also be used in furrow	Reconstitute with clean water and add protective compound. The liquid suspension is applied direct to seed (except for peanut) or can be injected into the furrow	Granules are delivered in furrow at sowing. DO NOT allow granules to become moist during seeding as some products can cause blockages
<b>USING ADDITIVES</b>	If used, ensure adhesive solutions are cooled before rhizobia are added. Generally NOT COMPATIBLE with mineral and organic fertilisers and pesticides; check manufacturer's guidelines	Generally NOT COMPATIBLE with mineral and organic fertilisers and pesticides; check manufacturer's guidelines	Check inoculant manufacturer's compatibility guidelines
<b>SOWING</b>	Best sown on day of coating into moist soil	Sow treated seed into moist soil within 5 hours of application	A third seeding box should be used to keep the granular formulation separate from fertilisers and pickled seed



Pumping a slurry of rhizobia inoculant into the auger to coat seed before sowing

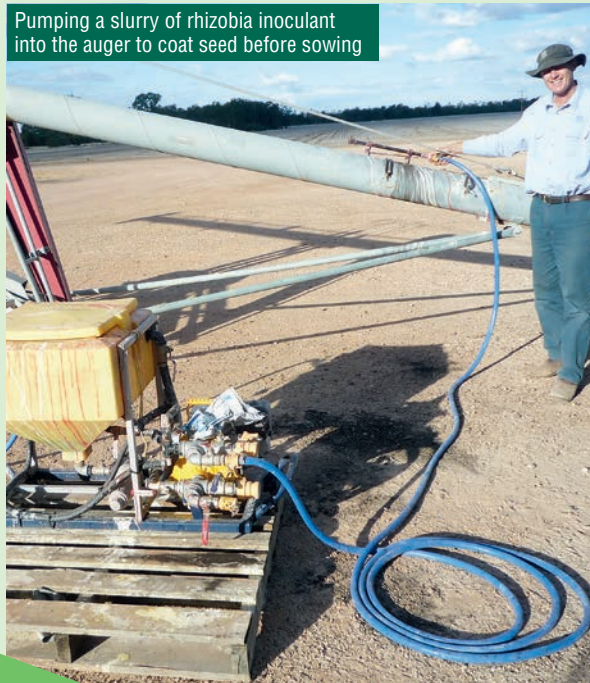


PHOTO: N. SEYMOUR

## Seed coating in practice

- Rates of application, i.e. volumes and weights of formulation, water and seed, are given on inoculant packets
- Peat formulation is made into a slurry using clean potable water in a clean drum and mixing well
- For pasture seed, an adhesive is often added to the slurry
- NOTE: Avoid fertiliser and pesticide residues and saline water
- Always grade seed first to remove pod debris and fine grain dust, which can block seeders
- Freshly prepared slurry is pumped from the drum (or poured) into the path of grain legume seed going up a slow-moving flighted auger into a grain bin
- Pasture seed, being small, can be coated in a concrete mixer or by mixing with a shovel on a concrete floor
- Most temperate pasture seed is best coated with fine lime (builders' and slaked lime should be avoided)
- Freeze-dried inoculant can be applied in the same way as peat slurry, as per manufacturer's instructions
- Allow slurry-treated seed to dry before filling air-seeders to prevent 'bridging' in the tank

# Assessment of nodulation

- A well-nodulated plant has nodules on the crown (where the root meets the shoot) and on the tap root and lateral roots
- Take a few plants from each of several locations in the paddock, to cover paddock variability
- Carefully dig up plants with root systems intact and gently wash roots (e.g. in a bucket of water) to remove soil

- Cut nodules open: pink-coloured tissue indicates active N fixation
- Desired numbers of nodules per plant at 8-10 weeks old are given in the sections of the guide for individual legume species
- Assessment of nodulation for chickpea: 0-1 = inadequate  
2-3 = adequate  
4-5 = good



0



1



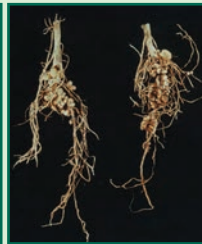
2



3



4



5

PHOTOS: A. GIBSON

Good (rear) and poor (front)  
nodulation of soybean



PHOTO: N. SEYMOUR

## Troubleshooting nodulation failure

- Indications of poor nodulation are yellowing young leaves, yellow and/or stunted patches of plants, and lack of nodules on root systems
- Nodulation failure is difficult to remedy, except by adding inorganic nitrogen, which can be costly
- Possible other remedies (if done immediately):
  - In flood or sprinkler-irrigated fields, add slurry or liquid inoculant to the irrigation water
  - Over-sow a granular inoculant close to the original sowing furrow



Well-nodulated roots of chickpea



PHOTO: G. CUMMING

# Chickpea *Cicer arietinum*

## INOCULANT GROUP N (STRAIN CC1192)

### CHICKPEA CROPS AND RHIZOBIA

- Chickpea has a very specific rhizobia requirement
- Rhizobia generally absent outside main growing areas

### CHICKPEA INOCULATION

- Peat formulation: as slurry to seed (most common) or in furrow
- Freeze-dried formulation: as slurry to seed or liquid in furrow
- Granular formulation: in furrow at sowing

### ASSESSMENT OF NODULATION

- After 8 weeks, 10 – 30 pink nodules per plant are satisfactory

### LIKELIHOOD OF CROP RESPONSE TO INOCULATION

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>HIGH</b>     | Chickpea not previously grown   |
| <b>MODERATE</b> | Previous inoculated chickpea crop more than 4 years ago, or recent crop performed below expectation |
| <b>LOW</b>      | Well-nodulated chickpea crop in past 2 years  |

Well-nodulated roots of field pea

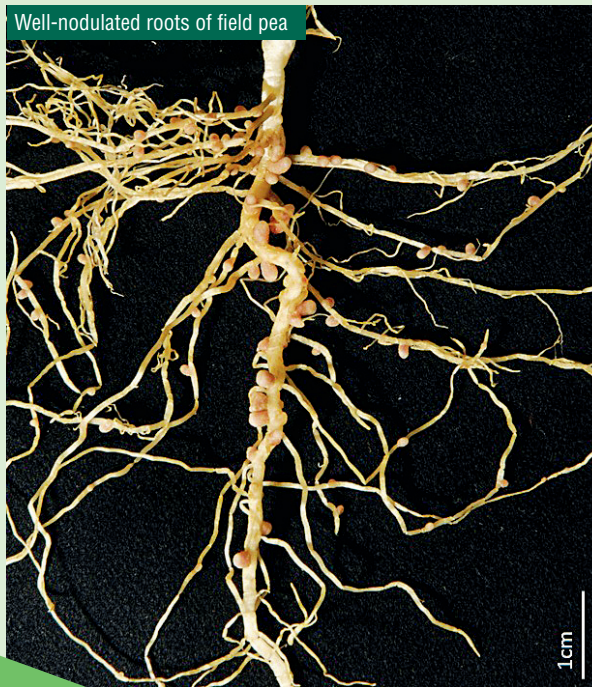


PHOTO: E. DREW

# Field Pea, Vetch

## *Pisum sativum*, *Vicia* species

**INOCULANT GROUP E** (STRAIN SU303)  
(GROUP F IS ALSO SUITABLE FOR PEA)

### PEA AND VETCH CROPS AND RHIZOBIA

- Where not previously grown, inoculate with rhizobia for effective nodulation and nitrogen fixation
- Group E rhizobia are moderately sensitive to soil acidity

### PEA AND VETCH INOCULATION

- Peat formulation: as slurry to seed (most common) or in furrow
- Freeze-dried formulation: as slurry to seed or liquid in furrow
- Granular formulation: in furrow at sowing

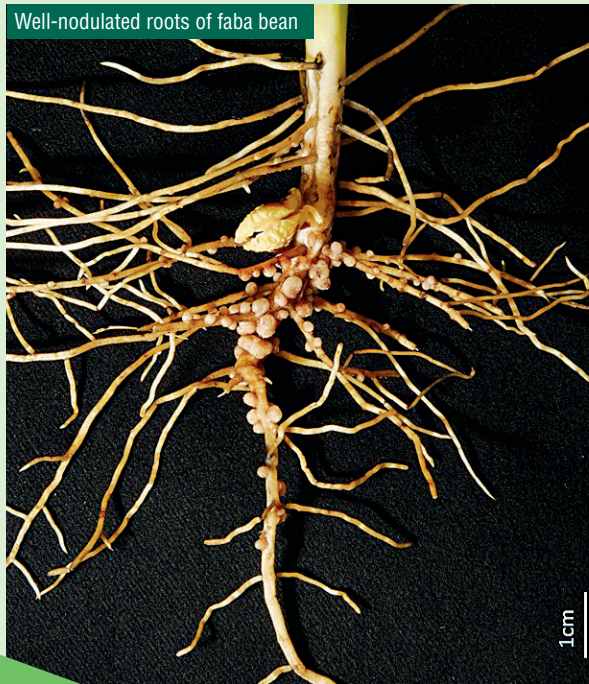
### ASSESSMENT OF NODULATION

- After 8 weeks, 100 pink nodules per plant (heavier textured soils) and 20 nodules per plant (lighter soils) are satisfactory

### LIKELIHOOD OF CROP RESPONSE TO INOCULATION

- HIGH** Crop not previously grown, or soils with pH ( $\text{CaCl}_2$ ) below 6.0 and high summer temperatures (over 35°C for 40 days)
- MODERATE** Previous inoculated pea, vetch (or bean) crop more than 4 years ago, or recent pea/vetch crop nodulated poorly and performed below expectation
- LOW** Soils loam or clay, neutral to alkaline pH, and recent well-nodulated host crop

Well-nodulated roots of faba bean



# Faba Bean, Broad Bean, Lentil

*Vicia faba*, *Lens culinaris*

**INOCULANT GROUP F** (STRAIN WSM1455)

## BEAN AND LENTIL CROPS AND RHIZOBIA

- Where not previously grown, inoculate with rhizobia for effective nodulation and nitrogen fixation
- Group F rhizobia are moderately sensitive to soil acidity

## BEAN AND LENTIL INOCULATION

- Peat formulation: as slurry to seed (most common) or in furrow
- Freeze-dried formulation: as slurry to seed or liquid in furrow
- Granular formulation: in furrow at sowing

## ASSESSMENT OF NODULATION

- After 8 weeks, 100 pink nodules per plant (heavier textured soils) and 20 nodules per plant (lighter soils) are satisfactory

## LIKELIHOOD OF CROP RESPONSE TO INOCULATION

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>HIGH</b>     | Crop not previously grown, or soils with pH ( $\text{CaCl}_2$ ) below 6.0 and high summer temperatures (over $35^\circ\text{C}$ for 40 days) |
| <b>MODERATE</b> | Previous inoculated bean or lentil crop more than 4 years ago, or recent bean/lentil crop nodulated poorly and performed below expectation   |
| <b>LOW</b>      | Soils loam or clay, neutral to alkaline pH, and recent well-nodulated host crop  |

Well-nodulated lupin and serradella (inset)



PHOTO: R. BALLARD, R. YATES (INSET)

# Lupin and Serradella

## *Lupinus* and *Ornithopus* species

**INOCULANT GROUPS G** (LUPIN STRAIN WU425)  
**S** (SERRADELLA STRAIN WSM471)

### LUPIN AND SERRADELLA CROPS AND RHIZOBIA

- Groups G and S both nodulate lupin and serradella
- Inoculation is essential where lupin or serradella have not been grown, because sandy soils are often acutely N-deficient

### LUPIN AND SERRADELLA INOCULATION

- Peat formulation as slurry to seed (most common) or in furrow
- Lime pelleting of serradella recommended in all states except WA
- Inoculating podded serradella: adjust liquid volumes to ensure even distribution; follow manufacturer's instructions carefully

### ASSESSMENT OF NODULATION AFTER 8 WEEKS

- Lupin: crown region (top of root system) covered with nodules
- Serradella: more than 20 pink nodules per plant are satisfactory

### LIKELIHOOD OF CROP RESPONSE TO INOCULATION

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>HIGH</b>     | No previous lupin or serradella grown in paddock  |
| <b>MODERATE</b> | More than 4 years since growing inoculated legume host, or recent crop performed below expectation                                  |
| <b>LOW</b>      | In the north and central regions of the WA wheat/sheep belt OR vigorous lupin/serradella growth and good nodulation in past 4 years |



Well-nodulated roots of peanut



PHOTO: N. SEYMOUR

# Peanut or groundnut

*Arachis hypogaea*

**INOCULANT GROUP P** (STRAIN NC92)

## PEANUT CROPS AND RHIZOBIA

- Main growing area: Queensland, with some growers in northern NSW and northern WA

## PEANUT INOCULATION

- Recommend water injection of peat or freeze-dried inoculum to prevent damage to seed from slurry coating
- Granular inoculum dispensed with seed at planting

## ASSESSMENT OF NODULATION

- Peanut can form many nodules, i.e. more than 100/plant
- Satisfactory number of nodules per plant 8-10 weeks after sowing: not possible to stipulate

## LIKELIHOOD OF CROP RESPONSE TO INOCULATION

<b>HIGH</b>	Peanut not previously grown
<b>MODERATE</b>	Where there is a history of poor nodulation
<b>LOW</b>	Recent and/or intensive peanut cultivation



Well-nodulated roots of mungbean



PHOTO: G. CUMMING

# Mungbean and Cowpea

*Vigna radiata* (green gram),  
*V. mungo* (black gram) and *V. unguiculata*

## INOCULANT GROUP I (STRAIN CB1015)

### MUNGBEAN, COWPEA CROPS AND RHIZOBIA

- Where not previously grown, inoculate with rhizobia for effective nodulation and nitrogen fixation

### MUNGBEAN AND COWPEA INOCULATION

- Peat formulation: as slurry to seed (most common) or in furrow
- Freeze-dried formulation: as slurry to seed or liquid in furrow
- Granular formulation: in furrow at sowing

### ASSESSMENT OF NODULATION

- After 8 weeks, more than 20 pink nodules per plant are satisfactory

### LIKELIHOOD OF CROP RESPONSE TO INOCULATION

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>HIGH</b>     | No previous mungbean, cowpea or other related <i>Vigna</i> species grown                   |
| <b>MODERATE</b> | Previous inoculated crop more than 4 years ago, or recent crop performed below expectation |
| <b>LOW</b>      | Recent and/or intensive mungbean or cowpea cultivation                                     |

Well-nodulated roots of soybean



PHOTO: D. HERRIDGE

# Soybean *Glycine max*

**INOCULANT GROUP H** (STRAIN CB1809)

## SOYBEAN CROPS AND RHIZOBIA

- Soybean specifically requires Group H rhizobia and will not nodulate with the same rhizobia as mungbean or cowpea
- Good agronomy and inoculation practice are needed for good yield and nitrogen fixation

## SOYBEAN INOCULATION

- Peat formulation: as slurry to seed (most common) or in furrow
- Freeze-dried formulation: as slurry to seed or liquid in furrow
- Granular formulation: in furrow at sowing

## ASSESSMENT OF NODULATION

- After 8 weeks, more than 20 pink nodules per plant are satisfactory

## LIKELIHOOD OF CROP RESPONSE TO INOCULATION

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>HIGH</b>     | Soybean not previously grown, or very alkaline or very acid soils |
| <b>MODERATE</b> | Previous inoculated soybean crop more than 4 years ago            |
| <b>LOW</b>      | Recent and/or intensive cultivation of soybean                    |

Well-nodulated roots of subterranean clover



## Annual clovers *Trifolium* species

(SUBTERRANEAN, BALANSA, PERSIAN, BLADDER, ARROWLEAF, ROSE, GLAND, CRIMSON, PURPLE, CUPPED AND HELMET)

### INOCULANT GROUP C (STRAIN WSM1325)

#### ANNUAL CLOVERS AND RHIZOBIA

- Inoculation is essential for gland, bladder and arrow-leaf clovers and recommended for all other annual clovers

#### ANNUAL CLOVER INOCULATION

- Most commonly applied as a slurry of peat followed by pelleting with fine lime or other suitable product
- All inoculant formulation types can be used
- Seed often purchased already inoculated. Check time from inoculation not more than six weeks. Freshly inoculated seed is best

#### ASSESSMENT OF NODULATION

- Good: 50 – 100 pink nodules per plant after 8 weeks of growth

#### LIKELIHOOD OF CROP RESPONSE TO INOCULATION

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>HIGH</b>     | Gland, bladder and arrowleaf clovers; no previous annual clover grown in paddock; soils with pH (CaCl <sub>2</sub> ) below 5.0; where soil is tilled at pasture renovation |
| <b>MODERATE</b> | No annual clover host in past 4 years and soil pH (CaCl <sub>2</sub> ) below 5.5; annual clover present, but growth or nodulation below expectation                        |
| <b>LOW</b>      | Soils with neutral or alkaline pH and recent history of good clover growth and nodulation  |

Well-nodulated roots of medic



PHOTO: R. BALLARD

# Annual medics

*Medicago* species (except strand and disc)

**INOCULANT GROUP AM** (STRAIN WSM1115)

## ANNUAL MEDICS AND RHIZOBIA

- Inoculation always recommended for burr, murex and sphere medic, sown into slightly acidic soils (pH  $\text{CaCl}_2$  below 6.0)
- DO NOT use Group AL inoculant because it is less effective at fixing nitrogen with some medic species in this group

## ANNUAL MEDIC INOCULATION

- Most commonly applied as a slurry of peat followed by pelleting with fine lime or other suitable product
- Granular and freeze-dried inoculant formulations are available
- Seed often purchased already inoculated. Check time from inoculation. Freshly inoculated seed is best

## ASSESSMENT OF NODULATION

- Good: 10 – 20 pink nodules per plant after 8 weeks of growth

## LIKELIHOOD OF CROP RESPONSE TO INOCULATION

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>HIGH</b>     | Burr, sphere and murex medic on soils with pH ( $\text{CaCl}_2$ ) below 6.0 OR no history of sown or naturalised medic |
| <b>MODERATE</b> | Medic present, but growth or nodulation below expectation  |
| <b>LOW</b>      | Neutral to alkaline loam or clay soils with recent vigorous medic growth and good nodulation                           |



Well-nodulated roots of *Biserrula*



PHOTO: R. YATES

## **Biserrula** *Biserrula pelecinus*

**INOCULANT GROUP BISERRULA SPECIAL** (STRAIN WSM1497)

### **BISERRULA AND RHIZOBIA**

- An annual pasture legume, grown since 2001, mostly in WA
- *Biserrula* has a very specific rhizobia requirement
- It does not nodulate with rhizobia associated with other indigenous or cultivated legumes
- It is essential to inoculate if *Biserrula* has not been recently grown

### **BISERRULA INOCULATION**

- Peat-slurry lime pelleted seed or seed sown with granular inoculant
- Higher inoculation rates (above recommended rates),  
e.g. one 250g packet of inoculant for 10kg seed is recommended

### **ASSESSMENT OF NODULATION**

- Good: at least 5 large (>5mm) and 10 small nodules per plant after 8 weeks of growth

### **LIKELIHOOD OF CROP RESPONSE TO INOCULATION**

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>HIGH</b>     | <i>Biserrula</i> host not previously grown  |
| <b>MODERATE</b> | No <i>Biserrula</i> in past 4 years OR last <i>Biserrula</i> pasture not inoculated or lacked 'good' nodulation near top of root system |
| <b>LOW</b>      | Neutral to alkaline loam or clay soils and recent (past 2 years) host crop with good nodulation   |



Well-nodulated roots of *Lotus*



PHOTO: R. YATES

## **Lotus** *Lotus pedunculatus* (syn. *uliginosus*)

**INOCULANT GROUP D** (STRAIN CC829)

## *Lotus corniculatus* (Birdsfoot trefoil)

**INOCULANT GROUP LOTUS SPECIAL** (STRAIN SU343)

### **LOTUS AND RHIZOBIA**

- NOTE: A different strain of rhizobia is needed for each species of *Lotus*
- Perennial *Lotus* pastures are mostly in medium to high rainfall areas of eastern Australia; their rhizobia have a similar distribution
- *Lotus* rhizobia are moderately tolerant of soil acidity

### **LOTUS INOCULATION**

- Most commonly applied as a slurry of peat followed by pelleting with fine lime or other suitable product
- One packet of peat inoculant (250g) will inoculate 10kg seed
- Freeze dried formulations are available

### **ASSESSMENT OF NODULATION**

- Good: more than 30 pink nodules per plant after 8 weeks of growth

### **LIKELIHOOD OF CROP RESPONSE TO INOCULATION**

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>HIGH</b>     | <i>Lotus</i> host not previously grown  |
| <b>MODERATE</b> | No <i>Lotus</i> in past 4 years OR last <i>Lotus</i> pasture not inoculated or lacked 'good' nodulation near top of root system |
| <b>LOW</b>      | Loam soils with neutral pH and a recent history (past 2 years) of <i>Lotus</i> with good nodulation                             |

Well-nodulated roots of lucerne seedlings



PHOTO: R. BALLARD

# Lucerne, strand and disc medics, *Melilotus albus*

*Medicago sativa*, *M. littoralis*, *M. tornata*

**INOCULANT GROUP AL** (STRAIN RRI128)

## LUCERNE, MEDIC AND MELILOTUS ALBUS PASTURES AND RHIZOBIA

- Inoculation is always recommended for good lucerne establishment
- DO NOT USE Group AM inoculant because it is less effective at fixing nitrogen with lucerne, strand and disc medic

## RHIZOBIA INOCULATION

- Most lucerne seed is sold preinoculated; if it is more than six months since inoculation, the seed should be reinoculated
- Due to nodulation sensitivity to low pH, coat inoculated seed with lime
- One packet of peat inoculant (250g) will inoculate 25kg seed

## ASSESSMENT OF NODULATION

- Lucerne: at least 5 pink nodules (ideally 10-15) per plant at 8 weeks
- Strand medics often form few nodules: 5 nodules at 8 weeks are satisfactory

## LIKELIHOOD OF CROP RESPONSE TO INOCULATION

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>HIGH</b>     | Always inoculate lucerne at sowing; soils with pH (CaCl <sub>2</sub> ) less than 6.0; no sown or naturalised medic |
| <b>MODERATE</b> | Medic present, but growth or nodulation below expectation  |
| <b>LOW</b>      | Neutral to alkaline loam or clay soils with recent vigorous medic growth and good nodulation                       |

Well-nodulated white clover: abundant nodules on the tap root and close to the crown



## Perennial clovers *Trifolium* species

(WHITE, STRAWBERRY, RED, TALISH, ALSIKE AND CAUCASIAN)

**INOCULANT GROUP B (STRAIN TA1)**

**EXCEPT FOR CAUCASIAN CLOVER SPECIAL (STRAIN CC283B)**

### PERENNIAL CLOVERS AND RHIZOBIA

- Inoculation assists vigorous early growth of small-seeded perennial legumes
- For good nodulation, soil pH ( $\text{CaCl}_2$ ) should ideally be greater than 5.5
- DO NOT USE Group C inoculant (WSM1325); nitrogen fixation by perennial clovers is significantly better with the Group B inoculant strain TA1

### PERENNIAL CLOVER INOCULATION

- Most perennial clover seed is sold preinoculated; if it is more than two weeks since inoculation, the seed should be reinoculated
- For white clover, use 250g packet of peat inoculant to inoculate 25kg of seed; adjust the inoculation rate for small-seeded species

### ASSESSMENT OF NODULATION

- Good: at least 10 pink nodules per plant after 8 weeks of growth

### LIKELIHOOD OF CROP RESPONSE TO INOCULATION

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>HIGH</b>     | Always inoculate Caucasian clover; no previous perennial clover grown in paddock; soils with pH ( $\text{CaCl}_2$ ) below 5.0; where soil is tilled at pasture renovation |
| <b>MODERATE</b> | No perennial clover host in past 4 years and soil pH below 5.5; perennial clover present, but growth or nodulation below expectation                                      |
| <b>LOW</b>      | Soils with neutral or alkaline pH and recent history of good clover growth and nodulation   |

Well-nodulated roots of *Sulla*



PHOTO: L. MASTERS

# **Sulla** *Sulla coronaria*

**INOCULANT GROUP SULLA SPECIAL** (STRAIN WSM 1592)

## **SULLA AND RHIZOBIA**

- It is essential to inoculate Sulla as it has very specific rhizobia requirements; Sulla rarely nodulates with background soil rhizobia
- Seedlings quickly develop nitrogen deficiency symptoms where nodulation is inadequate

## **SULLA INOCULATION**

- Most commonly applied as a slurry of peat followed by pelleting with fine lime or other suitable product
- Higher inoculation rates (above recommended rates) of one 250g packet of inoculant for 10kg seed are recommended
- Seed sold through retail outlets may be preinoculated; due to its very short shelf life, sow as soon as possible after inoculation

## **ASSESSMENT OF NODULATION**

- Good: 4 large (>5 mm) nodules per plant after 8 weeks of growth

## **LIKELIHOOD OF CROP RESPONSE TO INOCULATION**

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>HIGH</b>     | Sulla not previously grown OR soils with pH (CaCl <sub>2</sub> ) below 6.0                       |
| <b>MODERATE</b> | No Sulla in past 4 years OR growth or nodulation of previous Sulla pasture below expectation     |
| <b>LOW</b>      | Neutral or alkaline loam or clay soils and recent (past 2 years) Sulla host with good nodulation |

## INOCULANT GROUPS FOR COMMON LEGUME SPECIES AND THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF SEED THAT SHOULD BE TREATED BY A 250-GRAM BAG OF PEAT INOCULANT

INOCULANT GROUP	COMMON NAME OF LEGUME	SEED SIZE	MAXIMUM WEIGHT OF SEED TREATED BY 250-GRAM PEAT INOCULANT
AL	Lucerne, strand and disc medics, Melilotus albus	Small	25kg
AM	Burr medic, barrel medic, snail medic, sphere medic, murex medic	Medium	50kg
B	White clover, red clover, strawberry clover, alsike clover, talish clover	Small	25kg
C	Subterranean clover, balansa clover, crimson clover, purple clover, arrowleaf clover, rose clover, gland clover, helmet clover, Persian clover	Small–medium	25–50kg
D	Greater lotus	Small	10kg
E	Field pea, vetch, narbon bean, lathyrus	Large	100kg
F	Lentil, faba bean, broad bean	Medium–large	50–100kg
G	Lupin	Large	100kg
H	Soybean	Large	100kg
I	Cowpea, mungbean (green and black)	Large	100kg
N	Chickpea	Large	100kg
P	Peanut or groundnut	Large	100kg
S	French and yellow serradella	Medium	50kg
Biserrula	Biserrula	Small	10kg
Lotus	Birdsfoot Trefoil	Small	10kg
Sulla	Sulla	Medium	10kg



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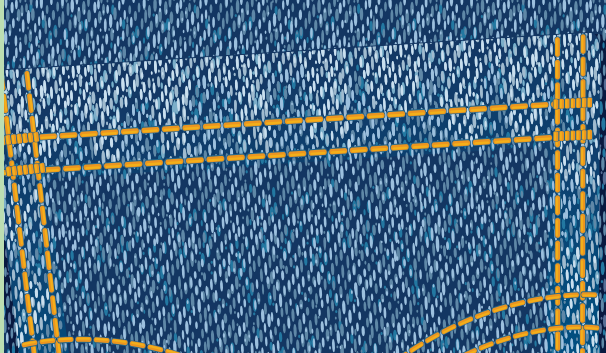
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#### USEFUL RESOURCES:

1. **Inoculating Legumes: a practical guide (2012)** Free, online  
[www.grdc.com.au/GRDC-Booklet-InoculatingLegumes](http://www.grdc.com.au/GRDC-Booklet-InoculatingLegumes)
  2. **Fact Sheet: Rhizobial inoculants 2013** Free, online  
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