

# Redlands up to the job

## Psyllid-tolerant leucaena available

**R**EDLANDS is the new psyllid-tolerant leucaena variety now available to the beef industry.

Bred by the University of Queensland and launched by Meat & Livestock Australia in 2019, it has the potential to open up new areas for leucaena development across northern Australia, but its performance under grazing was not known.

In a trial at Pinnarendi Station in north Queensland, the good news is that live weight performance of cattle grazing Redlands was equivalent to Wondergraze leucaena.

The Average Daily Gain (ADG) for cattle grazing Redlands over 368 days was 0.66 kilograms versus 0.68kg for Wondergraze.

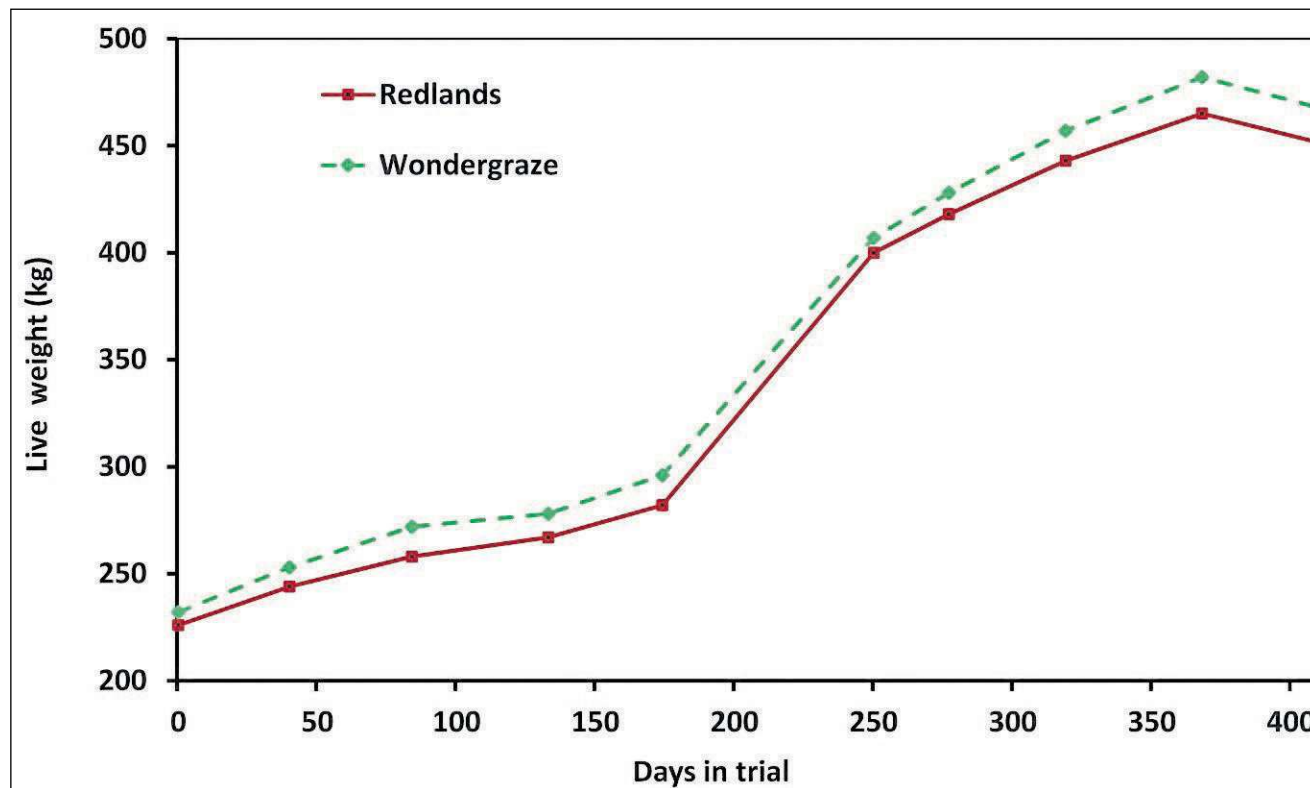
This is an overall annual live weight gain of 245kg/head (June 2018 to June 2019).

Whilst it is an impressive result, psyllids were not active during this time.

Live weight performance measurements are continuing at the site to try and demonstrate the productivity advantage from using Redlands leucaena.

### Pinnarendi trial

Redlands is suited to extensive coastal and near-coastal sites with adequate rainfall (700 mil-



Live weight performance of cattle grazing Redlands in a trial at Pinnarendi Station in north Queensland, was equivalent to Wondergraze leucaena.

limetres) where psyllid risk has previously constrained leucaena adoption.

A 60 hectare replicated trial site was planted in 2017 at Pinnarendi, near Mt Garnet, to compare live weight gains for cattle grazing Redlands or Wondergraze leucaena.

A cultivated strip method was used at 10 metre row spacing.

This retained the pre-existing pasture including urochloa, indian couch and black spear grass as well as substantial areas of the legumes wynn cassia and stylo.

The soils at Pinnarendi are relatively infertile red-earths and have required substantial phosphorus and sulphur applications to promote leucaena and pasture growth.

They are, however,

prevalent across the region and this aspect combined with other favourable features made Pinnarendi an appropriate location for conducting the comparative grazing trial.

Pinnarendi is also in an area where psyllids are seasonally active and therefore test Redlands capacity for higher productivity during periods when Wondergraze was potentially affected by psyllids.

### Cattle grazing

The grazing trial started in June 2018 with 28 Brahman cross and Droughtmaster weaner steers (averaging 229kg).

These steers were grazed for 14 months and removed at the start of September 2019.

A second and overlapping

cohort of 14 Brahman cross steers (averaging 213kg) were introduced in April 2019 to the leucaena trial as well as 12 head to an adjacent 25ha fertilised pasture paddock with no leucaena.

Due to dry conditions, no extra animals were added to the trial for the rest of 2019, and stocking rates were low.

### Results

The graph shows the growth curves for cattle grazing Redlands and Wondergraze over 427 days on the trial.

No supplements were fed during this period.

The steep part of the curve corresponds to ADGs of up to 1.6kg during the wet season.

During July and August 2019, cattle lost about 20kg/head before being removed

from the trial.

Conditions were dry and cold with some frosts, so pasture quality was poor and leucaena productivity was low.

Unfortunately, there were no significant psyllid populations at the site during the grazing period to highlight any production advantages of Redlands over Wondergraze.

For the second cohort of cattle on the trial, a year of grazing is almost complete.

Due to drier than normal conditions during 2019, cattle performance has been less than recorded in the previous steer group.

ADG over 365 days is expected to be close to 0.56kg with no difference between Redlands and Wondergraze, however, psyllids were not active at the site for the

second year running.

Remarkably, cattle in the improved pasture paddock, which is predominantly buffel grass, have shown equivalent live weight gains to the leucaena cattle.

This reflects the low productivity of leucaena during the second half of 2019.

It should also be noted this improved pasture paddock was ungrazed for four years prior to being incorporated in the trial.

All second cohort cattle were supplemented with urea blocks from September to the end of December and phosphorus blocks over the wet season.

### Ongoing activities

Despite a late start, more than 600mm of rain has been received at Pinnarendi up to May 2020 and the second cohort of steers will be removed in late June.

A third cohort of steers were introduced during May with additional steers to be included at the same time as the older steers are removed.

This will see a return to complete stocking at the site with full replication.

Seasonal conditions appear more favourable for psyllids this year, so some productivity advantage from Redlands may be apparent.

It will be interesting to see if animal performance from the improved pasture paddock is also maintained.

For more information contact Craig Lemin, research officer, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mareeba, 0467 804 870 or [craig.lemine@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:craig.lemine@daf.qld.gov.au).

Alternatively, you can visit [futurebeef.com.au](http://futurebeef.com.au) and then search for 'leucaena' or 'redlands'.

## PASTURE SUPPLEMENTS RANGE



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# Worry less about getting lost

THE Australian outback is well known for its perilous nature and people becoming lost on a property, poses a significant health and safety risk.

The information available to people travelling on properties varies.

Most properties have infrastructure maps with varying levels of detail, while others have internal roads, tracks and water points marked with signposts or objects.

Acclimatising to a new patch of country comes naturally to some, and not so much for others.

Fortunately, advances in technology have paved the way for contemporary solutions to an age-old problem.

## What is an offline mobile map app?

As the name suggests, offline mobile map apps work without wi-fi or network connectivity.

Some apps like Google Maps and Apple Maps allow you to download maps offline, but this is generally limited to public roads and tracks, not infrastructure and internal roads on properties.



Acclimatising to a new patch of country comes naturally to some, and not so much for others. Offline mobile apps help out with this problem.

## Can infrastructure maps be connected to offline mobile map apps?

Yes, property infrastructure maps can be connected with offline mobile map

apps via georeferencing.

Digital property maps are usually in PDF format.

A georeferenced map will have the coordinates of the property stored within the PDF.

When accessed through specific software applications, the GPS locations of anything within the boundary of that map is available.

## How do offline mobile

## map apps work?

When using a navigation system, a dot generally appears on the screen to indicate the user's current position.

When a georeferenced

property map is accessed through the appropriate mobile software application, a dot will also appear to indicate the user's position.

The difference is that the map being viewed is a property map - which, if up to date, will show where the user is in relation to infrastructure such as tracks, fences, water points and yards.

## Do they offer other features?

There are several mobile map apps, and their features vary. With some products users can: plot and record information about locations; import/export place marks; measure distance/area; and georeference photos.

In addition to using the app for navigational purposes, it can be used to record the coordinates of broken infrastructure or where equipment was left behind, so others can locate it.

For more information, contact Meg Humphrys, pastoral extension officer, Department of Primary Industry and Resources, Alice Springs, 08 8951 8144.

## GRAZINGFUTURES PARTNERSHIPS KEY TO SUPPORTING NORTHERN PRODUCERS



AMID the global pandemic the GrazingFutures project continues, relying on strong partnerships across the west and north-west Queensland grazing industry.

GrazingFutures builds grazing business resilience by assisting livestock producers to prepare for, respond to and recover from drought and other disasters.

The program involves a close collaboration between

the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), Northern Gulf Resource Management Group, Southern Gulf NRM, Desert Channels Queensland, Southern Queensland Landscapes, Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority, Rural Financial Counselling Service and AgForce.

Having developed the partnerships to support drought-affected producers, the GrazingFutures team

were able to adjust to respond to the 2019 north-west monsoon event.

In the 12-months since the monsoon event, these organisations have worked together to deliver production, grazing management and business services to producers via on-line delivery, neighbour days, on-property visits, case studies, publications, fact sheets and producer guides.

Additionally, the Graz-

ingFutures project supports the on-ground collaboration of DAF and NRM groups to trial and implement new technologies, organise industry events and foster producer peer-to-peer learning.

For the past three years, GrazingFutures has supported the Basalt Bash, now a 'must attend' on the northern social calendar. Due to COVID-19, this event will run from September 4-6, 2020 at Mount Carbine.

## Offering a helping hand

GrazingFutures builds grazing business resilience by assisting livestock producers prepare for, respond to and recover from drought and other disasters.

Contact Emily Corbett, beef extension officer, DAF Mareeba, 0436 847 169, email emily.corbett@daf.qld.gov.au or visit futurebeef.com.au (search 'grazingfutures').



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# NORTHERN MUSTER

Information for rural business in North Queensland



# Boost your natural resources

TWELVE months on from the 2019 monsoon event, the Southern Gulf Graziers Leading Landscape Change project is once again gaining momentum and is seeking expressions of interest from producers wishing to access incentives to improve their natural resources.

In 2019, the project set out to support 12 Southern Gulf graziers to improve natural resource management (NRM) practices across 100,000 hectares, through a structured program of property management planning and incentivised on-ground works.

To date, the activities identified through the development of property management plans to address key NRM issues include, but are not limited to:

- riparian fencing to reduce degradation and erosion incidence
- paddock fencing for better stock control and grazing management
- treatment of invasive weed infestation
- erosion control around man-made infrastructure including roads and tracks



The Southern Gulf Graziers Leading Landscape Change project is seeking expressions of interest from producers wishing to access incentives to improve their natural resources. Photo courtesy of Roger Hill.

- water development to optimise grazing distribution and paddock utilisation
- regeneration of land condition and pasture species around degraded

watering points. During the project's delivery, Southern Gulf NRM is focusing on building the capacity of graziers to recognise, plan and respond to key NRM threats to the

landscape resilience of their commercial enterprises. The incentives component of the project is delivered for on-the-ground works and are one-off grant payments matched dollar for dollar by

project participants. These grant payments are administered to producers in parallel with the property planning activities. Incentives are offered on a competitive basis,

ranking proposals against project-relevant criteria that demonstrate the best NRM value in line with each property management plan that is submitted.

Southern Gulf is very much motivated to build on the momentum of the first 12 participants and are seeking expressions of interest from landholders who have natural resource issues they would like to address.

This is a fantastic opportunity to partner with us, as project delivery has been extended to June 2022.

'Southern Gulf Graziers Leading Landscape Change' is a project funded by the Queensland government's Natural Resources Investment Program (NRIP).

The NRIP funding acknowledges the important role that the natural resource management bodies and the community play in repairing and improving Queensland's unique natural assets for future generations.

For more information contact Rachel Hoolihan, Southern Gulf NRM, 0427 651 984 or [rachel.hoolihan@southern Gulf.com.au](mailto:rachel.hoolihan@southern Gulf.com.au).

## NEW PROGRAM FOCUSED ON DEVELOPING BEEF LEADERS READY TO LAUNCH



THE Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) is excited to announce the piloting of a new beef industry leadership and professional development program.

Developed by the DAF beef extension team in partnership with Meridian Agriculture, Advancing Beef Leaders (ABL) focuses on developing aspiring industry and community leaders.

The program will

develop the knowledge and skills relevant to holding a committee or board position, while building the confidence of participants.

Aiming to combine the best private industry trainers with local DAF expertise, the program will be tailored to meet the individual needs of participants.

Industry mentors and DAF beef extension staff will provide support for participants of ABL.

The focus of the program is to overlay relevant industry technical content with appropriate self-development, governance and communication skills; encouraging participants to build stronger networks and spark the confidence needed to influence and contribute effectively in their community, region and industry.

The 2020-21 ABL pilot program begins in August and will be offered free of

charge to 10 participants in the Charters Towers district. Participants will, however, be asked to contribute to their own travel, accommodation and meal costs for program trips.

Interested producers and community members should submit an expression of interest. Applications close July 15.

For information contact Alison Larard (pictured), DAF 0467 804 287 or [alison.larard@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:alison.larard@daf.qld.gov.au).

### ABL PROGRAM

#### Develop your leadership skills

- ABL will develop the knowledge and skills relevant to holding a committee or board position, while building the confidence of participants to get involved in these roles.
- Program will be tailored to meet the individual needs of participants.

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