



Inclusion and management of Sulla in the forage systems

Need/issue: Forage crops.

Aim: To extend the grazing season, increase the quality of forage on offer and decrease costs.

How to implement:

- Inoculation method: Sulla must be inoculated a few hours before seeding with a Rhizobium sullae, commercial strain WSM1592. Seed is inoculated by mixing peat slurry with the seed and then pelleting the seed with fine lime.
- Seeding: Seeding rate ranges between 25 to 35 kg/ha, depth must not exceed 1.5 cm.



Description:

- Sulla (*Sulla coronaria* (L.) Medik.) is a short perennial legume species widely used as a forage legume in Mediterranean regions.
- It is a very nutritious and productive forage legume with great potential for livestock enterprises.
- Recent studies have shown that well inoculated Sulla can be grown successfully in soil where usually it wouldn't be traditionally recommended, broadening its adoption from alkaline to acidic soil.



Expected benefits:

The inclusion of sulla in the forage system increases milk production in sheep, improves animal welfare (decrease the urea content of milk compared to the content after grazing on others legumes), extends the grazing period, improves the quality on herbage on offer, it decreases the cultivation costs.

Prerequisites and/or limits:

- Sowing Management: soil pH>5,5; light soil cultivation and good early weed control.
- Sown Sulla in autumn in Mediterranean regions and in spring in temperate environment.
- Seed must be always sown immediately after inoculation in moisture soil.

Country: Italy

Dairy or/and meat sheep: Meat and Dairy sheep

Category of Animal (ewe, replacement, lamb):
All

Topic:

- Health
- Nutrition
- Management

Level of solution:

- Knowledge
- Practical

Source of information:

Booklet "Tecniche di coltivazione della Sulla (Italian language)

Video "Tecniche di coltivazione della sulla" (Italian language)