- Seed and seed treatment expertise
- Latest genetic material
- Screening, testing and evaluation of potential varieties
- Trial sites in different geographical regions of South Africa
- Specialising in tested varieties of:
  Vegetable, maize, oil (sunflower & soybean),
  cover crops and pasture seeds
- Specialist technical advice and support
- Professional seed specialists

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AGT FOODS AFRICA

BRAZGrass
Pasture is Profit

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intelligent crop solutions

high-quality seed and seed care solutions

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Supergraze – Forage Sorghum

Supergraze is erect, annual, summer grass. Widely adapted but thrive in hot areas. The mainstream Forage Sorghums in SA are hybrids and many different types of crosses exist.

AGT Foods is the exclusive distributer of Supergraze 1000, an early flowering Sorghum X Sudan grass cultivar suited for grazing only. 50% flowering stage can be reached within 70-80 days when established early in spring.

This is however subject to climate, growing environment and management. Forage Sorghums are very drought tolerant and can produce with rainfall as low as 350 – 400 mm per year, or under irrigation for more intensive production systems.

Saia / Maluti / Black Oats

Oats is an annual temperate grass or cereal, grown as either a forage- or grain crop. It is categorized as a forage cereal together with Rye and Triticale.
As a forage crop it can be utilised as grazing, hay or silage.
Like all forage cereals, it is categorized according to its growth form, as a Spring-, Intermediate- or Winter type.

Often produced under irrigation but requires at least 400 mm rainfall per annum for Winter rainfall areas or 500 mm rainfall per annum for Summer rainfall areas. Saia is black oats and is normally cultivated as a cover crop/ green manure because of the good effect it has on soil health.

Spring types have no requirement for vernalisation (prolonged cold period) and becomes reproductive at specific day lengths.

Winter types do have vernalisation requirements and will only become reproductive after exposure to cold enough periods, for long enough.

Maluti is a true Spring-type oat developed by the ARC.

Intermediate types lie between Spring- and Winter types on a sliding scale.

Brown Teff

Teff is an annual grass species adapted to a wide range of conditions. This tufted grass produces ample fine leaves and stems which makes it an ideal crop for hay production for livestock and commercial hay farmers. The fast emergence of seedlings provide protection to the soil and is often used as erosion control.

This grass is best adapted to areas where the annual rainfall is approximately 600 mm per annum but can be cultivated in areas with an annual rainfall as low as 400 mm per annum. Good quality hay can be produced and should be cut before initiation of the flowering stage.

Nooitgedacht - Jap Radish

- Japanese Radish is an annual temperate root crop. It is cultivated for forage and it has a thickened taproot that makes out the bulk of the production.
- It is conventionally utilised as grazing (sheep, goats or cattle), or alternatively fed to animals after uprooting it.
- It makes good silage if mixed with other roughage with a low water content like wheat straw. It can also be preserved by chopping and drying it.
- It can be utilized in winter and early spring (depending on planting date) under dry land conditions or irrigation.
- It requires at least 350 mm rainfall per annum if it is cultivated under dry land conditions.
- It is also produced under irrigation. Nooitgedacht is the most common cultivar planted in South Africa.

Guinea/ White Buffalo grass is a summer growing perennial species.
This grass is highly variable and can be tufted with or without short rhizomes. Pastures are usually used as long-term pastures if the soil fertility is maintained.

The tolerance to shade makes this species suited for agroforestry. This grass is best adapted to areas where the annual rainfall is 550 mm per annum.

Okashana – Babala / Pearl Millet

- Babala is a fast-growing annual summer forage crop. The erect and robust grass has an extensive root system aiding with the adaptation to a wide variety of growing conditions.
- This grass is mostly used for grazing, but can be utilized as green chop, silage and foggage. It is also used as a grain crop in areas where maize and sorghum fails.
- This grass is best adapted to areas where the annual rainfall is between 400 mm and 1500 mm. Okashana is an open pollinated Babala variety suited to grazing. The fact that it is not a hybrid makes the seed more affordable.

Black Eye Cow Peas

This erect (with semi-erect properties) growing cultivar is suited to both hay and grain production. From planting, it takes 50 – 55 days to reach the flowering stage and can be harvested after 100 – 110 day. Days to flower and days to harvest may vary from area to area and is also influenced by date of planting.

It is a multi-purpose crop, being used for human consumption as a pulse grain and vegetable, or as a forage crop being grazed or preserved. It is also often used as a cover crop/ green manuring. The minimum rainfall requirement for Cowpea production is 450 mm per annum.

AGT PASTURE BLENDS

Indigenous Grass Mix

- Smutsfinger
- Borseltjie – Bristle Grass
- Rhodesgrass
- Cynodon dactylon
- Eragrostis curvula
- Teff

Horse Blend

- Rhodesgrass
- Burgundy Bean
- Smutsfinger
- Babala (Millet)
- Lucerne

Prime Pasture Mix

- Smutsfinger
- Rhodes
- White buffalo

Prime Beef Blend

- Rhodes Grass
- Lucerne
- White Buffalo
- Burgundy Bean
- Smutsfinger

Special Pasture Mix

- Tall fescue
- Perennial Rye Grass
- Cocksfoot
- Red Clover
- White Clover

Sheep Blend (Central & East)

- Smutsfinger grass
- Lespedeza
- Rhodes grass
- White buffalo

Rix Mix (Fraser Alexander)

- Smutsfinger grass
- Cynodon dactylon
- Rhodes grass
- Teff
- Blue buffalo
- Lucerne

Sheep Blend (West)

- Blue buffalo
- Lespedeza
- Borseltjie / Bristle
- Smutsfinger grass

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Uses: Direct grazing, baling, hay, silage and mulch

	Brachiaria MARANDU	Panicum MOMBACA	Brachiaria PIATA	Brachiaria RUZIZENSIS	Panicum ZURI
CHARACTERISTICS					
Vegtative Cycle	Perennail (8-10 years)	Perennail (8-10 years)	Perennail (8-10 years)	Perennail (8-10 years)	Perennail (8-10 years)
Growth Habit	Clump (Stoloniferous)	Upright clump	Clump (Stoloniferous)	Clump (Stoloniferous)	Upright clump
Training time	60 – 80 days	60 – 80 days	60 – 80 days	60 – 80 days	60 – 80 days
Cutting height (Grazing)	Begin grazing on 35cm rotate on 25cm	Begin grazing on 90cm rotate on 20cm	Begin grazing on 35cm rotate on 20cm	Begin grazing on 30cm rotate on 15cm	Begin grazing on 75cm rotate on 20cm
Dry Matter (DM)	14 ton/ha/year	28 - 40 ton+/ha/ year*	15 ton/ha/year	12 - 15 ton/ha/ year	20 – 35 ton/ha/ year
Crude protein DM	10 – 13%	12 – 18%	9.5%	12 – 13%	12 – 15%
Acceptability	Good	Excellent	Good	Good	Excellent
Digestibility	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good

* DM return at seeding rate of 5kg/ha; 28 ton/ha/year and at 10kg/ha; 40ton plus/ha/year

It is advised that most forage crops should not be grazed shorter than 10 cm, about the width of a hand. This will allow voluminous regrowth, also consider a lower number of animals per pasture field

	Brachiaria MARANDU	Panicum MOMBACA	Brachiaria PIATA	Brachiaria RUZIZENSIS	Panicum ZURI
TOLERANCE					
Drought	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
Ponding	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Medium
Cold	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium
PLANTING					
Soil Fertility requirement	Medium	High	Medium	Medium	Medium/High
Season	Late spring to high summer	Late spring to high summer	Late spring to high summer	Late spring to high summer	Late spring to high summer
Fertilization	According to soil analysis	According to soil analysis	According to soil analysis	According to soil analysis	According to soil analysis
Depth	Maximum 2cm	Maximum 0.5cm	Maximum 2cm	Maximum 2cm	Maximum 0.5cm
Row Width	150mm – 250mm	150mm – 250mm	150mm – 250mm	150mm – 250mm	150mm – 250mm
Planting Method	Fine seed planter or sow with fertilizer sower	Fine seed planter or sow with fertilizer sower	Fine seed planter or sow with fertilizer sower	Fine seed planter or sow with fertilizer sower	Fine seed planter or sow with fertilizer sower
*** Latest recommended plant time is no later than three months before first ripe/winter cold**					
MINIMUM QUANTITIES					
Unit	5 & 10kg bags	5 & 10kg bags	5 & 10kg bags	5 & 10kg bags	5 & 10kg bags
Average Density/ Application	5 – 7kg/ha	7 – 10kg/ha	5 – 7kg/ha	5 – 7kg/ha	5 – 7kg/ha

GROUND ANALYSIS

It is important to do your soil analysis before you invest in any pasture planting. This will give the best chance possible to see what your soil needs to give maximum benefit to your pasture.

SOIL PREPARATION

The seeds from most grass are small and it is therefore essential that the seedbed be level, weed free, firm and fine (not powdered).

Initial treatment by means of harrowing or plowing must be done during the winter or early spring. If necessary, lime can be worked in at this time.

Shortly after the first rain a dish or harrowing can be used to break up large clods and destroy weed seedlings. Your soil analysis will show whether it is necessary at this time to work in a basic fertilizer application.

After the second rain may soil can be disked and seed can be planted.

TECHNIQUES FOR PLANTING

Pasture seed can be sowed widely and in rows.

- By hand
- Using handheld spreader
- With a wheat planter that's blades / teeth have been removed
- Using a special fine seed planter
- By mixing the seed with phosphate fertilizer and sowing with lime / fertilizer spreader. Planting depth is 20mm.
- The fertilizer spreader can also be used with dry river sand

PASTURE MANAGEMENT AFTER PLANTING

CUT AND BALE

- The grass may be cut at a height of 80cm
- The grass should not be cut at less than 30cm
- Last cut before winter should be done during April

DIRECT PASTURE

- Grazing camps should be erected to manage your pasture
- Animals can be put to pasture within 80 days of grass height of 60cm
- Do not graze grass that's less than 30cm

In order to utilize maximum pasture, 40kg nitrogen and 10kg potassium per hectare should be administered after removal of animals from camp or after each cut.

This will ensure your ground is sufficiently fed and the pasture is at its best for potential of growth. It was found that grazing camps 15 years and older without its carrying capacity was affected. The same quantities are recommended if you bale after each cut.

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Mooirivier Mixture

Habitat

Areas with a yearly rainfall of 500mm or more

Components

Smutsfinger + Rhodesgrass + Kleinwitbuffel

Advantages of this mixture

- The mixture can be grazed from the first season,
- All three components are tasty perennial grasses and possess good digestibility characteristics that can be used as standing hay.
- The species complement each other. Rhodes- and buffalo grass settles faster and suppresses the emergence of weeds.
- It provides the Smutsfinger-component with a weed-free base to settle over time.
- The mixture is suitable for most soil types.
- The management of the mixture is according to normal Smutsfinger management practices.
- The mixture also combines well with legumes, such as sweet-whiteflower clover (Melilotus Alba)

Sowing Density

- Rows: 8-10kg/ha
- Broadcasting: 15-18kg/ha

Planting Time

October – March

Riemland Mixture

Components

PUK 8 + Kleinwitbuffel

Advantages of this mixture

- The mixture can be grazed from the first season
- All three components are tasty perennial grasses and possess good digestibility characteristics that can be used as standing hay.
- The species complement each other. Rhodes- and buffalo grass settles faster and suppresses the emergence of weeds. It provides the Smutsfinger-component with a weed-free base to settle over time.
- The mixture is suitable for most soil types.
- The management of the mixture is according to normal Smutsfinger management practices.
- The mixture also combines well with legumes, such as sweet-whiteflower clover (Melilotus Alba)

Waterberge Mixture

Components: Smutsfinger + Rhodesgrass + PUK 8

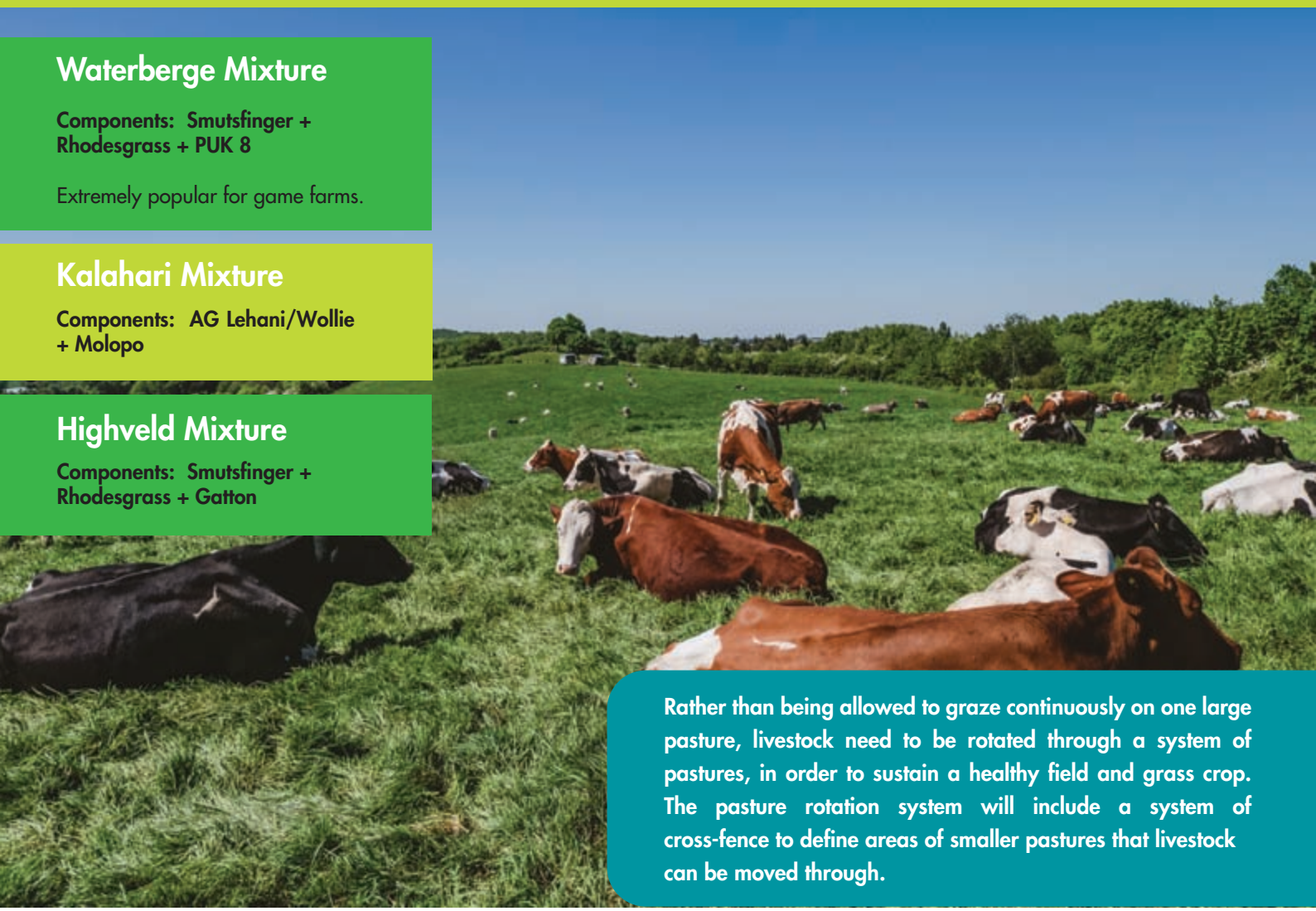
Extremely popular for game farms.

Kalahari Mixture

Components: AG Lehani/Wollie + Molopo

Highveld Mixture

Components: Smutsfinger + Rhodesgrass + Gatton



Rather than being allowed to graze continuously on one large pasture, livestock need to be rotated through a system of pastures, in order to sustain a healthy field and grass crop. The pasture rotation system will include a system of cross-fence to define areas of smaller pastures that livestock can be moved through.

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