

Is Pasture Cropping Successful Everywhere?

Pasture Cropping is being adopted over a very large range of varying climatic conditions and soil types in Australia and it is very successfully being practiced from Gulgong N.S.W, Cobar in Far West N.S.W, Biloela in North Queensland, Bairnsdale in South-East Victoria, Jamestown in SA, Geraldton in W.A. and numerous areas between.

These districts vary greatly in annual rainfall and distribution of rainfall.

In these areas good crop yields have been achieved while stimulating perennial species, improving soil health and increasing plant biomass, which will increase soil organic carbon levels over time.

Until this point in time Pasture Cropping has been practiced with the use of chemicals to control weeds and conventional fertilizers to manage soil chemistry. But over time, as Pasture Cropping stimulates improvement in soil health including soil micro -organisms with increase in soil organic carbon levels and improvement in ground cover, many crops are now being sown without these inputs.

The benefits of pasture cropping are enormous, way beyond the short-term crop yields. They contribute to the development of vitally needed top-soil, water management, stabilising the many forms of soil erosion, controlling weeds as well as great potential for increasing soil carbon levels and improving soil health. It gives farmers and graziers a tool to effectively manage their properties whilst individually contributing to a healthier environment.

Once complete ground cover is achieved, the Pasture Cropping technique can be used to grow organic crops. This can be done without using a plough or herbicide to destroy the existing pasture.

Note. Because of a groundswell of interest in Pasture Cropping, Colin Seis has been helping landholders in many parts of Australia and other countries advising them with workshops and private on-farm consultancy on the best methods to use for their particular area, rainfall and pasture type. This consultancy-type advice can be extended to any interested party.



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Pasture Cropping Profitable Regenerative Agriculture

Colin Seis



Why Practice Pasture Cropping?

Concerns about declining profitability, poor soil structure, dryland salinity, soil acidification and increasing numbers of herbicide resistance weeds have prompted over 1500 farmers throughout eastern, southern and Western Australia to adopt Pasture Cropping.

The resulting year-round groundcover reduces wind and water erosion, improves soil structure, reduces weed numbers, increases nutrient availability and increases levels of soil organic carbon. The soil health benefits from plant root exudates and a large increase in organic matter derived from a mix of shallow rooted crops and deep-rooted perennial pastures are numerous and include large improvements of soil microbiology.

In an era when dryland salinity, soil acidification and loss of soil carbon are having increasing impacts on the productivity and profitability of farming enterprises, pasture cropping is providing one option for addressing these issues.