

Seeking commercialisation partner: New cold tolerant shrubby stylos

The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) and Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) have identified superior, persistent, drought resilient, highly productive, disease tolerant and frost tolerant new shrubby stylo accessions.



The problem

Pasture legumes are the best long-term option to increase productivity and profitability from both rundown sown grass pastures and native pastures for large parts of Australia.

Increasing nitrogen levels by adding legumes is a sustainable and economical option for increasing graziers' productivity.

There is no commercially available, summer growing legume for light textured soils (i.e. sands and loams) that is suited to southern inland Queensland. Frosty winters are too cold for most tropical legumes. Unreliable winter rain means it is too dry in most years for temperate annual legumes.



The solution

New superior shrubby stylos that are persistent and productive in the frosty climate of southern inland Queensland have been identified.

These superior shrubby stylos have averaged 40-70% higher yield than the best performing commercial legume variety, with exceptional yields at the sandiest and coldest trial site. They have good persistence (>20 years at trial site), drought tolerance, frost tolerance and good recruitment.

No varieties of this biotype of shrubby stylo have been released previously in Australia.



Where is it up to?

The new shrubby stylos have been evaluated at five trial sites across southern Queensland over nine years including four years of severe drought. Disease tolerance and rhizobia inoculant effectiveness has been tested.



The opportunity

DAF and MLA are seeking a commercial partner/s to commercialise new shrubby stylo (*S. scabra*) varieties in northern Australia, via an expression of interest (EOI) process. Two shrubby stylo accessions have been shortlisted for release as new varieties and have provisional Plant Breeders Rights protection.

Interested parties should contact Dr Allan Peake (MLA Program Manager) for a copy of the full EOI guidelines. Initial interest must be registered via email by 5pm AEST on 22 November 2024.

The closing date for full EOI proposals is 5pm AEST on 31st January 2025.

More information

For more information or to register your interest in the new product, please contact:

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