

ABSTRACT TITLE
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A field study of irrigated *Distichlis spicata* var. yensen-4a (NyPa Forage)

M.R. Sargeant, NyPa Australia, P.O. Box 301 Huntly Vic 3551, M.E. Rogers,
Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Tatura Vic 3616, R.E. White,
Institute of Land and Food Resources, The University of Melbourne, Parkville Vic 3010*

The response of *Distichlis spicata* to two levels of saline irrigation water was evaluated in a field experiment at Undera in northern Victoria from 2000 to 2002. Four grass species (*Distichlis spicata* var. yensen-4a, *Leptochloa fusca*, *Puccinella ciliata* and *Paspalum vaginatum*) were established in November 2000 and irrigated with water from local evaporation ponds that averaged 21.6 dS/m (Treatment 1) and 62.5 dS/m (Treatment 2). Soil EC, pH and exchangeable ions were taken at the beginning and end of each irrigation seasons. Pasture samples of each species were taken throughout the experimental period and dry matter production, ash, protein, energy, dry matter digestibility and neutral detergent fibre analysis were measured. The *Puccinella* plots did not survive the establishment period and were not included in the analysis. *Leptochloa fusca* established reasonably well in 2000/01 season, but did not persist into the 2001/02 irrigation season. Concurrent research in the greenhouse evaluating establishment techniques for *D. spicata* will also be discussed in this paper.