

Getting the best from High Moisture Hay using SI-LAC EXTRA®.

Current seasonal conditions have highlighted the problem of showery weather and high humidity causing difficulty with hay-making due to crops being unable to be dried sufficiently to bale in these conditions. Continued turning for drying purposes may result in loss of leaf and quality. In many cases, hay ends up mouldy and of poor quality when eventually baled with higher than desired moisture. Further problems with potential fires can arise if moist hay is stacked.

Additionally, when unfavourable seasonal conditions occur, there may be times when “failed” or poor crops that will not achieve high grain yields may be cut for hay. Most of these crops of wheat, barley, triticale, grain legumes or canola contain a mix of leaf, stem and grain heads or pods, resulting in uneven drying and high moisture levels.

In this situation, when the crop is used for hay, using an inoculant such as **SI-LAC EXTRA** is the ideal answer to these high moisture conditions.

SI-LAC EXTRA is an Australian developed fresh culture inoculant containing three different bacteria that create a stable temperature in the baled hay.

SI-LAC EXTRA aids in reducing heating and decomposition of high moisture hay by eliminating the aerobic, composting bacteria that attack high moisture feed.

SI-LAC EXTRA offers these benefits:

- Allows hay to be made when moisture levels are up to 25%.
- Aids in the reduction of mould by creating low pH levels, unsuitable for growth of moulds.
- Reduces heating through lowering the pH.
- Helps maintain quality by retaining leaf through less turning.
- Enables earlier baling, helping with the weather risk.
- Helps to make quality hay with a higher feed value through a combination of all these points.
- Suitable for all crops.
- Will not foul tanks and nozzles – suitable for use with 50 mesh filters.
- Long tank mix life – once mixed, lasts for 5-14 days depending on temperature.
- Increases in strength – up to 10 times – once mixed.
- **SI-LAC EXTRA** can be used when making small square bales, large squares, or round bales.

Important Application Guidelines

- Always read and heed the label.
- For best results, **SI-LAC EXTRA** is applied to hay as it is baled. The inoculant mixture is sprayed from a nozzle mounted in the throat of the baler over the hay after it has been picked up prior to compaction.
- Ensure that applicators are properly calibrated to deliver the correct amount of **SI-LAC EXTRA** per bale and per tonne.
- Ensure that all bales are treated. If untreated hay is baled and stacked with **SI-LAC EXTRA** treated hay, the untreated bales may heat and cause the whole hay-stack to catch fire.

The specially developed “**Air-Tech**” **Wireless Controlled ULV Applicator** available from Grevillia Ag is ideal for application of the inoculant mixture to the hay.



A picture paints a thousand words.

An example of the quality difference that Si-Lac Extra can make to high moisture hay occurred during the last harvest.

Due to an applicator malfunction, part of a paddock of high moisture hay bales received Si-Lac Extra silage and hay inoculant, and part of the paddock did not.

The end result can be seen from the pictures below – compare the two results.



ABOVE: Bales of high moisture hay treated WITH Si-Lac Extra – green with no heating evident. Hay saleable and palatable to stock.



ABOVE: Bales of high moisture hay the were NOT treated with Si-Lac Extra due to applicator pump failure. Unsaleable hay with significant browning caused by heating, and subsequent loss of quality.