

AGF  seeds



GRASSES

# Choosing the Right Ryegrass

Choosing the right type and variety of ryegrass is crucial to establishing a successful pasture. Knowing what goals you are trying to achieve and matching this with the rainfall and soil conditions of your paddock will lead to a healthy, strong pasture.

## Step 1: Lifespan of the pasture

Type	Lifecycle	Key Benefits
Perennial	3-5+ years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efficient and cost effective</li> <li>• Long term feed option</li> <li>• Requires minimal intervention</li> <li>• Can be oversown to improve later years</li> </ul>
Hybrid	2 to 4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher yields and larger leaves than perennials</li> <li>• Higher persistence than Italian ryegrasses</li> <li>• Can oversow perennial pastures</li> </ul>
Italian	1 to 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highly nutritious</li> <li>• Produces quality hay and silage</li> <li>• Oversow for short term improvements to perennial pasture</li> </ul>
Annual	1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid establishment and excellent winter growth</li> <li>• Provides multiple grazings in one season</li> <li>• High yields for hay and silage production</li> </ul>

## Step 2: Grazing Patterns

Choose either a diploid or a tetraploid based off of how you will graze your pasture.

**Diploid:** Can be grazed to 2-5cm. Will handle short or long periods of set stocking or rotational grazing.

**Tetraploid:** Can be grazed to 5-7cm and will handle short periods of set stocking or rotational grazing. Stock tend to prefer tetraploids to diploids which can lead to overgrazing of tetraploids.





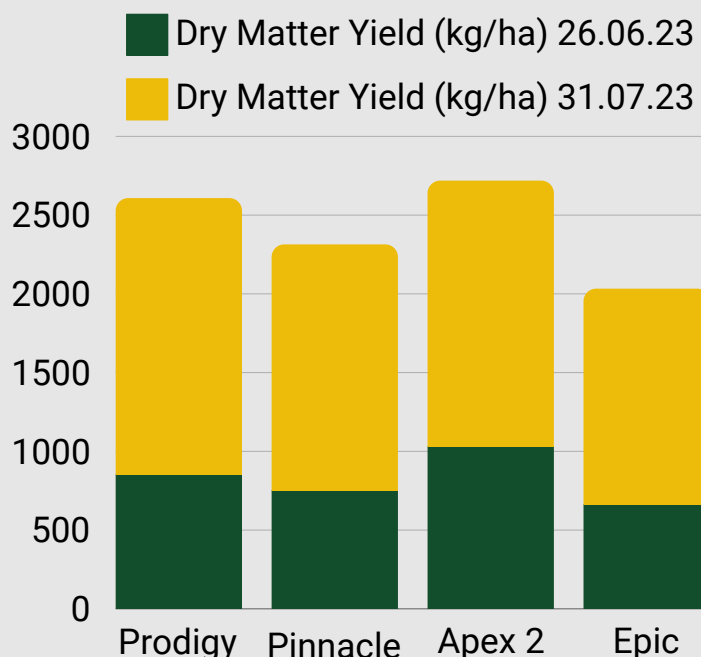
### Step 3: When do you require fodder?

Different ryegrass varieties will provide varying amounts of dry matter across the season. Growers who may be looking for high winter/autumn yields should consider Apex 2, however, if you are irrigating or have the rainfall to push later into the season then Prodigy provides great late season yields and regrowth. Maturity is important to track as well as it will impact the time of the spring-flush and the late season loss of quality.

### Ryegrass Maturity (based on compiled scores 2017-2023 Smeaton)

	Annual	Italian & Hybrid	Perennial & Hybrid
Early/Quick Maturity	<b>Storm (d)</b> Burst (t) Tetila (t) <b>RedGum 2 (t)</b>	Awesome (d) Hulk (d)  <b>Xtend (d)</b> <b>Gusto (d)</b> Tempo (d) Crusader (d) Accelerate 2 (d)	Barberia (d) Victorian (d) Bolton (d) <b>Marathon LE (d)</b> Kingsgate (d)  Nui (d) Avalon (d)
Late Maturity	Vortex (t) Ascend (t)  <b>Epic (d)</b> <b>Apex (t)</b> <b>Apex 2 (t)</b>  Torpedo (t) Fuze (d) Zoom (t) <b>Pinnacle (t)</b> Dash (t) <b>Prodigy (t)</b>	   Feast 2 (t) Blade (d)  <b>Rula (t)</b> Shogun (t) Mohaka (t)	       <b>Avalon PLUS LE (d)</b>  <b>Rula (t)</b> Shogun (t) Hustle AR1 (d) <b>Bistro LE (t)</b> Matrix (d)   <b>Tenacious (t)</b> Base (t) Bealey (t)

\*Bolded varieties are AGF Seeds proprietaries



### Autumn & Winter Yields

Figure 1 shows the amount of dry matter harvested from AGF Seeds varieties in the first two simulated grazes of our 2023 annual ryegrass trial. Different varieties are suited to proving feed at different times of the season. Apex 2 is a great variety for growers looking to find a ryegrass to fill their winter feed gap.

### Step 4: Assess Impacts of Endophytes in Perennial & Hybrid Ryegrasses

An endophyte is a fungus found naturally in grasses forming a mutualistic symbiotic relationship where the fungus protects the ryegrass from insects and the ryegrass provides nutrients and a host. Endophytes can be a positive or negative depending on the goals of the pasture. While providing protection for some varieties the alkaloids produced by the grass/endophyte relationship can cause animal production and health problems, the most common of these problems is 'ryegrass staggers'. It is important to discuss with our seed representatives or your agronomist how endophytes in ryegrass may impact your livestock.

# Smeaton Ryegrass Trials

The aim of the ryegrass variety trials was to assess the dry matter production performance, heading dates, and make disease observations of pre-commercial and new commercial genetics and compare to industry benchmark varieties for each species (annual, Italian, perennial). We invest heavily in these trials to ensure genetics we take to market have proven they can perform in the field.

We have distributed results from this trial throughout the ryegrass section to highlight where our new varieties will fit within the market.

Each variety trial comprises a 4 replicate randomized complete block design. Sowing rates are based off MLA pasture trial network protocols (annual and Italian: Diploids @ 20kg/ha, Tetraploids @ 28kg/ha. Perennials: Diploids @ 20kg/ha, Tetraploids @ 25kg/ha).

**Top Right:** Mark Steel taking Biomass Cuts with our specialty Iseki trial mower.

**Right:** Rhys Cottam-Starky presenting at our November field days.

**Below:** One of our Smeaton trial sites from above.



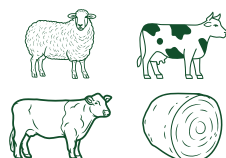


# ANNUAL RYEGRASS

## *Prodigy* Tetraploid Annual Italian

### Key Features

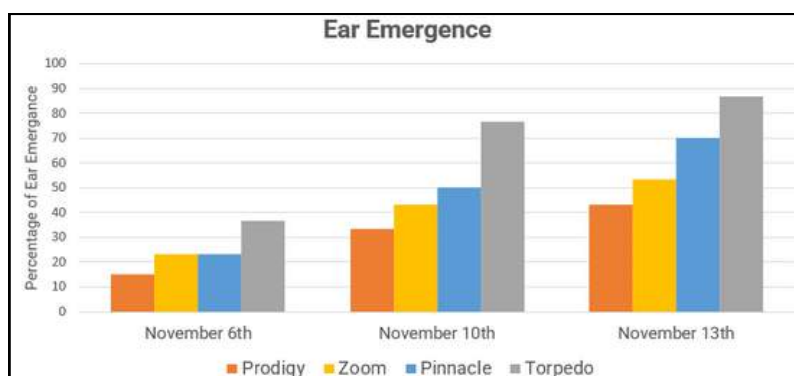
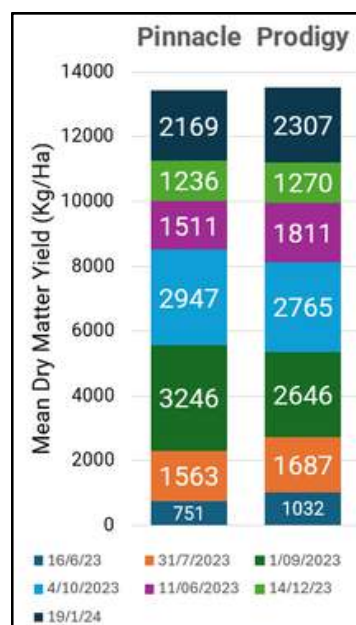
- Late season quality
- High Winter production
- High seedling vigour



Prodigy ryegrass, bred by AGF Seeds in Australia, is an annual tetraploid variety with exceptional seedling vigour, very late heading, and high leaf quality.

It provides valuable forage from early winter through to late in the growing season and enables excellent pasture utilisation, silage production, and hay quality during the spring and summer months. Perfect for medium to high input Dairy, sheep and beef systems where the highest performing annual pastures are required.

Prodigy was selectively bred from plants that showed the potential to provide a second year of growth where conditions allow.



**Above:** Dry Matter Yield results of Pinnacle and Prodigy in the 2023 AGF Seeds Annual Ryegrass Trial in Smeaton

**Left:** Ear Emergence scoring from AGF Seeds 2023 Heading Date Trial, Smeaton

**Below:** Redgum 2 (left), Pinnacle (Centre), and Prodigy (Right) on 14/12/2023 showing how well Prodigy holds quality late into the season. Smeaton Annual Ryegrass Trial 2023



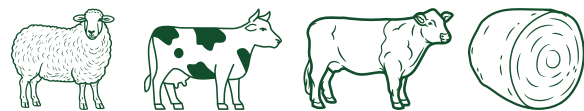




# Apex 2 *Tetraploid Annual*

## Key Features

- Early Season Powerhouse
- Lodging & Rust Resistance
- Improved Late Season Quality

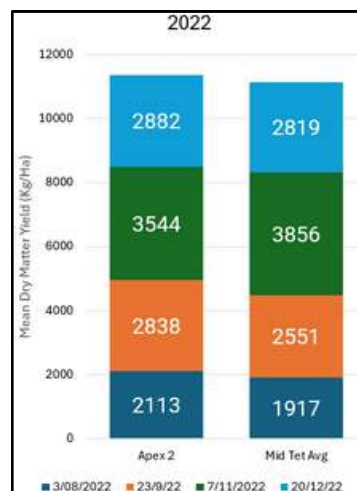


Apex 2 builds upon the highly regarded Apex. It continues to deliver very high early season production while providing improved late season quality and production.

Apex 2 suits single year production where winter grazing is a high priority and opportunities for efficient silage/hay making or late season grazing are important in dairy, sheep, beef, and fodder production systems.

In our Smeaton Ryegrass trials in 2022 and 2023 Apex 2 had strong results when compared to other mid maturity tetraploids. Apex 2 outperformed the average result for biomass cut overall, with outstanding results for early feed where Apex 2 shines.

From the biomass results for cuts before October Apex 2 was producing 10.8% over the average mid maturity tetraploids in 2022 and 9.3% in 2023, again proving its potential for providing winter feed.



Dry matter yield (Kg/Ha) for Apex 2 and an average of all mid maturity tetraploids in the 2022 and 2023 AGF Seeds Annual Ryegrass Trials



## **Epic** *Diploid Annual*

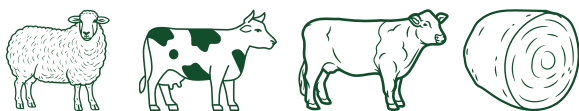
### Key Features

- Winter Feed
- Robust variety that can be set stocked or rotationally grazed
- Fine leaves and stems

Diploid mid-late maturing annual suited to a broad range of environments and systems. Bred in Australia for high seedling vigour, production through winter, high tiller density and rust resistance.

Epic is a robust variety that provides dense feed in medium inputs systems for sheep and beef. Very strong winter performance.

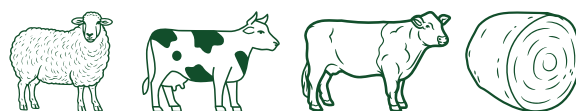
Consider use of annual clovers companions to fix nitrogen and further improve feed quality. Can be used to oversow pastures.



## **Pinnacle** *Tetraploid Annual*

A top performer in Dairy Australia Forage Value Index Pinnacle performs very well through the season including through winter and holds density late into the season. Pinnacle is late maturing and where moisture permits can recover post hay/silage cutting to produce high quality feed very late into the season.

Tested in Australia since 2010 Pinnacle is a proven performer that will add value to any system.



## **RedGum 2** *Tetraploid Annual*

Quality Assurance practices during seed production ensures consistent quality is guaranteed in this variety. Rapid establishment, early maturity and improved grazing and hay production are the main benefits of this low cost annual tetraploid.

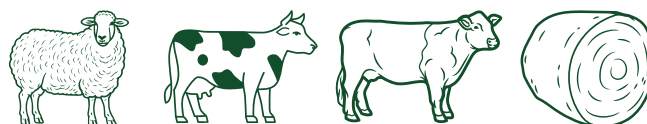


# HYBRID & ITALIAN RYEGRASS

## ***Gusto*** *Diploid Italian*

### Key Features

- Mid-late maturity
- Low aftermath heading
- Early Season Production
- Densely Tillered Diploid



Mid-Late maturing Diploid Italian with excellent early season production and recovery from grazing. Gusto is a densely tillered upright variety providing a balance between optimising grazing and conserving for silage or hay. Low aftermath heading ensures quality feed continues to be produced while moisture is available.

Gusto has the potential to provide up to two seasons of high-quality grazing and silage or hay. Gusto provides excellent early season production and can recover for multiple grazings. Due to the low aftermath heading quality feed is ensured to be produced late in the season while moisture is available.

In AGF Seeds 2023 Italian Ryegrass trial Gusto proved its ability to provide premium winter feed, and its ability to continue to provide biomass late into the season for grazing or hay & silage purposes.

**2023 Italian Ryegrass Trial, Smeaton Mean Dry Matter (Kg/Ha)**

Variety	Winter	Spring	Summer	Total
<b>Appeal</b>	2168	6690.6	3528	12386
<b>Xtend</b>	2082	6875.6	2784	11741
<b>Gusto</b>	2353	6248.3	3128	11729
<b>Allure</b>	2319	6298.1	2840	11457
<b>Crusader</b>	2199	5928.3	3281	11408
<b>Knight</b>	2269	6166.9	2922	11358
<b>Manta</b>	2222	6013.8	2986	11222





## ***Xtend*** *Diploid Italian*

### Key Features

- Durable diploid Italian option with sound performance across a wide range of environments
- Winter Feed

An Italian ryegrass with sound winter performance and well noted standability though the season. An upright habit and mid maturity makes Xtend a robust and durable 1-2 year pasture grass that holds density deep into the season. Currently used across eastern Australia in sheep, beef, dairy and hay production operations.



## ***Rula*** *Tetraploid Hybrid*

### Key Features

- Potential as sole grass in 4 year pastures
- It has a fit for a short term pasture in environments where Italians are unreliable.
- High year round fodder

A late-flowering long-rotation type with strong establishment vigour. Rula provides value in a number of situations. It is often used as the sole grass in a potential 4 year pasture. It has a fit for a short term pasture in environments where Italians are unreliable.



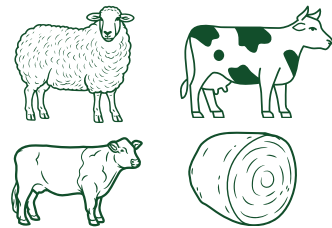


# PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

## ***Bistro LE*** *Tetraploid Perennial Ryegrass*

### Key Features

- Late heading
- Tetraploid
- High tiller density
- Bred for persistence under grazing systems
- Australian Bred



Late heading Tetraploid Perennial bred in Australia to combine early vigour, later maturity, persistence under heavy grazing, high tiller density, and rust resistance. Suited to high rainfall and irrigated perennial systems where late maturity allows multiple silage cuts and grazings through early summer in medium to high input dairy, sheep, and beef systems.

Bistro LE provides strong all season production and shows improvement in winter growth compared to previous perennials. Provides quality feed late into the season while moisture is available.







## ***Avalon PLUS***

### ***Diploid Perennial***

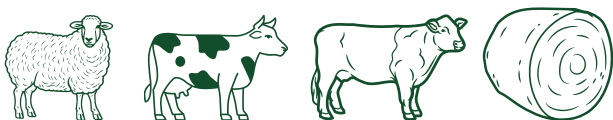
#### **Key Features**

- Improved density when compared to Avalon
- Bred for persistence under grazing
- Improved late season quality
- Reduced risk of ryegrass staggers

Avalon PLUS provides quality late season feed where conditions allow and has improved upon Avalon's winter feed with improved vigour. A mid-late maturity approximately 7 days later than Avalon and 14 days later than Victorian.

Bred in a high rust pressure environment for improved resistance when evaluated against comparators.

Suitable to dryland medium to high rainfall regions and irrigation in dairy, beef and sheep systems as a durable quality perennial with robust maturity.



## ***Marathon LE***

### ***Diploid Perennial***

Early Mid maturing variety suited to sheep and beef operations in medium rainfall environments. Can be used with other perennial grasses as a low endophyte component to reduce the risk of losses associated with livestock staggers. Economical permanent pasture option. Can reduce risk of ryegrass staggers.



## ***Victorian LE***

### ***Diploid Perennial***

Victorian Perennial Ryegrass is a locally grown ecotype well suited to its local environment. While its production is often less than modern varieties its ability to endure is a key feature of this variety and it fits as an economical option in some areas.

Victorian Ryegrass has a standard endophyte.





A close-up photograph of a brown cow's head and shoulders. The cow is looking slightly to the right. It has a red ear tag on its left ear and a yellow bell on its right ear. The background is a blurred field of green grass. The text 'AGF seeds' is overlaid in the top left corner, with a small yellow grass icon above the 'F'.

**AGF** seeds

# OTHER GRASSES



# COCKSFOOT

## ***Deluxe***



Deluxe is an enhanced addition to the AGF cocksfoot range. Providing a high-yielding and soft-leaf variety with improved winter activity.

It is particularly suitable for high-rainfall environments, as it maintains high production levels throughout all seasons, while also retaining summer quality and palatability when seasons allow. Deluxe is a next-generation cocksfoot variety that has demonstrated useful disease resistance.

### **Key Features**

- Soft Leaf
- Tiller Density
- Disease Tolerance
- Palatability

**Rainfall:** 600mm+

## ***Yarck***



Selected to be more suitable in regions with a medium or short growing season. Yarck is a porto type with vigorous seedling establishment, high winter growth, and softer and more palatable leaves. Yarck also has the ability to respond and grow with summer rainfall.

### **Key Features**

- Persistence
- Palatability
- Rapid Establishment

**Rainfall:** 500mm+

## ***Excellate***

A late flowering variety with prostrate, growth habit. Bred for a low crown. It has proven to be a durable variety, with a fit in medium to high rainfall zones in sheep and beef pastures.

**Rainfall:** 500mm +



## ***Lazuly***

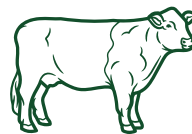
A late flowering variety with semi erect growth habit, high palatability and persistence. Lazuly is suitable for sheep, beef and dairy systems, being softer and more palatable to animals.

**Rainfall:** 600mm +



# TALL FESCUE

## ***Stirling***



Stirling is densely tillered and has excellent palatability, making it an ideal choice for dairy, beef, and sheep.

In comparison to other leading summer-active, continental varieties, Stirling has proven to be highly persistent and high-yielding throughout the year, including early spring and autumn. It also exhibits useful rust resistance and Stirling is highly adaptable and can thrive in both dryland and irrigated conditions. It tolerates heavy, wet, and moderately saline soils, and it is more versatile than perennial ryegrass in hot conditions.

### **Key Features**

- Persistence for longer pasture life
- Soft-leaved, densely tillered
- High forage yield
- Disease resistance

**Type:** Summer Active

**Endophyte:** Nil

**Rainfall:** 550mm+

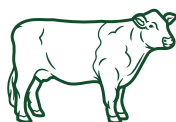
## ***Finesse-Q***

Finesse-Q is a high yielding, densely tillered, soft-leaf fescue with semi-late heading. It is extremely persistent due to its dense nature and has no fescue endophyte. It has an intermediate growth pattern better suited to much of Australia's oceanic climate.

**Type:** Summer Active

**Endophyte:** Nil

**Rainfall:** 600mm+



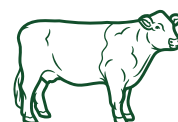
## ***Prosper***

A Mediterranean tall fescue with high winter production and summer dormancy. It is ideal for low summer rainfall areas and shows good persistence.

**Type:** Winter Active

**Endophyte:** Nil

**Rainfall:** 350mm +





# PHALARIS & PRAIRIE GRASS

## **Mate** *Winter Active Phalaris*

Mate is a highly winter active phalaris bred in Argentina with excellent autumn to spring forage production and good persistence. It has good seedling vigour and high autumn/ winter forage yields. Mate is about 2 weeks earlier flowering than Holdfast. It can also be sown as the sole perennial grass with sub clover, or in a mix with summer active cocksfoot varieties for all year round feed. It is also suited to sowing at 0.5-1kg/ha with lucerne.

**Rainfall:** 450mm+

## **Holdfast GT** *Winter Active Phalaris*

Holdfast GT phalaris bred for increased grazing tolerance over Holdfast phalaris. Has excellent winter activity and seedling vigour with exceptional dry matter production. Adapted to a greater range of soil types than Holdfast.

**Rainfall:** 450mm +

## **Holdfast** *Winter Active Phalaris*

Holdfast is a winter activity variety with a low level of summer dormancy, similar to the levels in Australian. At the time of Holdfasts release in the 90's it was slightly more tolerant of soil acidity than other cultivars available at that time.

**Rainfall:** 650mm+

## **Matua** *Prairie Grass*

An annual or short-lived perennial grass. Most growth in autumn, winter and spring. Suited to fertile, well-drained soils.

Compared to other prairie grass cultivars, Matua has increased annual production, faster tillering, better disease resistance, more erect growth habit, and rapid recovery from grazing.

**Rainfall:** 650+mm

# AGFseeds

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