



AGF seeds



**RYEGRASS
COCKSFOOT
TALL FESCUE
PHALARIS**

GRASS GUIDE 2025

AGF Seeds Grass Guide

AGF Seeds prides itself on its grass range. From a wide range of ryegrass varieties for different environments to cocksfoot, tall fescue, phalaris, prairie grass and blends. No matter what grass you need we have you covered.

We invest heavily in research and development of our grass range and extensively trial our varieties to ensure their suitability for the Australian market. At our Smeaton trial site, we run a number of different ryegrass, tall fescue, and cocksfoot trials while also hosting a Pasture Trials Network trial on site. We also enter our material in a range of independent trials across Australia to better understand the genetics across a range of environments.

Our staff are knowledgeable and ready to talk to you about finding the right pasture for your farm.

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

Right: Craig Altmann presenting at our October field days.

Below: One of our Smeaton trial sites from above.

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Ryegrass Variety Suggestions

The following table suggests varieties based on your paddock's potential production period. For more information on each variety, refer to the page number in this guide or contact our seed sales representatives.

Annual & Short Term Ryegrass Pastures

Potential Production Period	Sowing Suggestion	Page
Short (5 to 8 months)	Redgum 2: A short growing season annual tetraploid for use in short season environments and situations like double-cropping where the annual ryegrass is terminated early.	5
Mid (7 to 9 months)	Apex 2: Apex 2 has strong winter growth and a maturity suited to these season length environments, providing better quality than Redgum 2, but less regrowth than Prodigy post heading. Apex 2 is a tetraploid, a poloidy often preferred in high production systems.	4
	Epic: Diploids are often preferred in challenging growing conditions, such as pugging-prone soils, continuous grazing, and suboptimal nutrition. Their fine stems make diploids a popular choice for hay production.	5
Long (9 to 11 months)	Prodigy: The late maturity of Prodigy maximises options due to its strong post heading regrowth compared to these other annuals. Importantly Prodigy provides strong early growth. A true premium tetraploid ryegrass cultivar, making the most of the whole season.	3
	Epic	5
Very Long (9 months +)	Prodigy	3
	Gusto	6
	Short-term Stayer Blend: A blend that capitalises on the fast establishing annual and Italian components in the blend and the persistence of the Italian and hybrid ryegrasses.	
18 months +	Gusto: A true Italian, Gusto can give up to 2 seasons, maybe providing only 1 full season in tougher years.	6
	Rula: A potential of up to 4 years persistence in good conditions; in tougher environments Hybrid Rula ryegrass has shown to persist better than Gusto, even if it's only getting an extra season.	7

Perennial Ryegrass Pastures

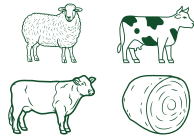
Ryegrass adaptation zone	Sowing Suggestion	Page
Mild & Short PRG grows as a short-term perennial in suitable paddocks in these areas, due to moderate moisture availability and summer heat, but also because it might be a short pasture phase in a cropping rotation. Seed set can assist persistence.	Victorian: Still used in low input, challenging conditions. The animal health risk associated with the endophyte in Victorian Perennial Ryegrass should be considered and managed for.	9
	Marathon LE has established itself as a popular alternative to Victorian ryegrass. It responds well to effective ryegrass management, and being a low-endophyte variety, it significantly reduces the animal health risks associated with Victorian. Marathon LE.	9
Intermediate	Marathon LE	9
	Avalon Plus LE: Avalon Plus LE matures later than Marathon LE, extending production and quality in longer season environments.	9
Hybrid	Rula: Fits both the Intermediate and Cool & Long zones, offering more feed than perennials in year 1 but less persistence than true perennials.	7
Cool & Long PRG is a major pasture species in these areas with high rainfall, relatively long growing seasons and mild summers being typical.	Avalon Plus LE	9
	Bistro LE: Having the latest maturity of these perennial ryegrasses it responds well to input and careful management throughout the season.	8

ANNUAL RYEGRASS

Prodigy *Tetraploid Annual Italian*

Key Features

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

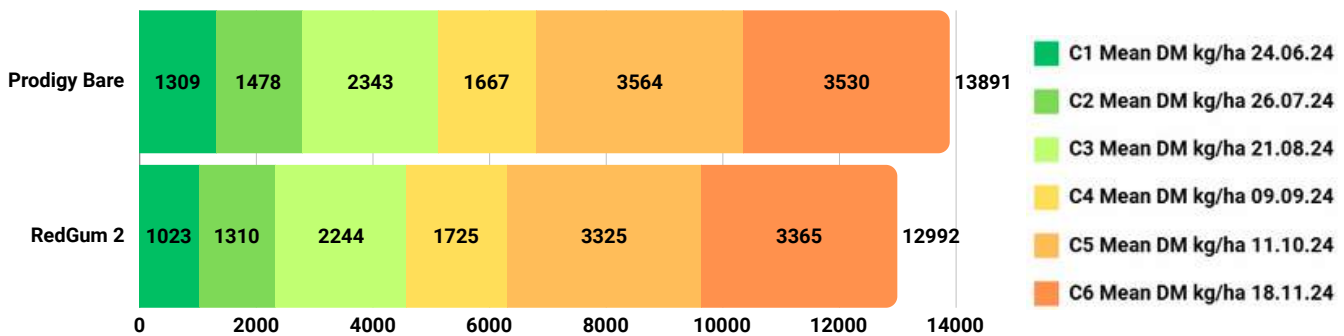


Prodigy ryegrass, bred by AGF Seeds in Australia, is an annual tetraploid variety with exceptional seedling vigour, very late heading, and high leaf quality.

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.

Prodigy's fit is on farms that can utilise it's high potential, when compared to a solid grass like RedGum 2 it is clear that Prodigy provides a lot more feed and goes later into the season. Truly a grass that will provide exceptional results if conditions allow.

Below: Dry Matter Yield (kg/ha) results of Prodigy and RedGum 2 in the 2024 AGF Seeds Annual Ryegrass Trial in Smeaton



Redgum 2



Pinnacle



Prodigy

Above: 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

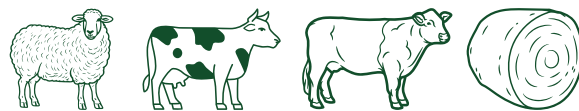




Apex 2 *Tetraploid Annual*

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*

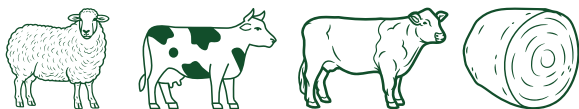
Key Features

- 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.



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.

Pinnacle *Tetraploid Annual*

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.

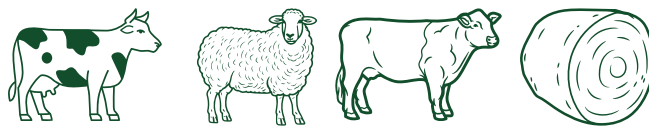


ITALIAN RYEGRASS

Gusto *Diploid Italian*

Key Features

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

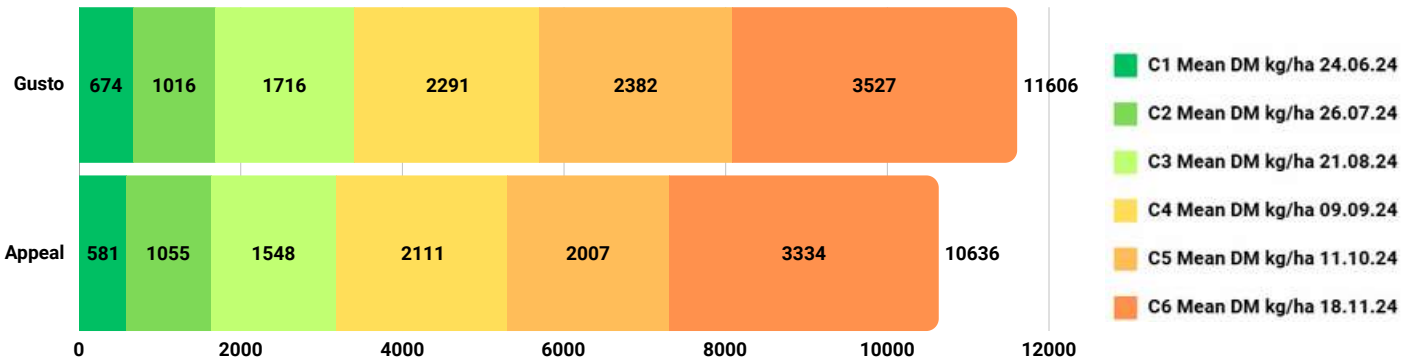


Mid-Late maturing Diploid Italian with excellent early season production and recovery from grazing. Gusto is a densely tillered upright variety providing a balance between optimising grazing and conserving for silage or hay. Low aftermath heading ensures quality feed continues to be produced while moisture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

Below: Dry Matter Yield (kg/ha) results of Gusto and Appeal in the 2024 AGF Seeds Italian Ryegrass Trial in Smeaton



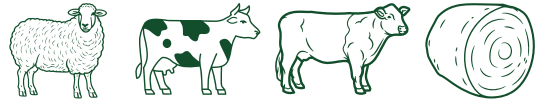
Elevate Gusto with Clover

- Gusto 72%
- Beast White Clover 8%
- Enrich Persian Clover 20%

Take your pasture to the next level by combining Gusto and clovers. This adds further feed quality and can fix some atmospheric nitrogen into the paddock

HYBRID RYEGRASS

Rula Tetraploid Hybrid



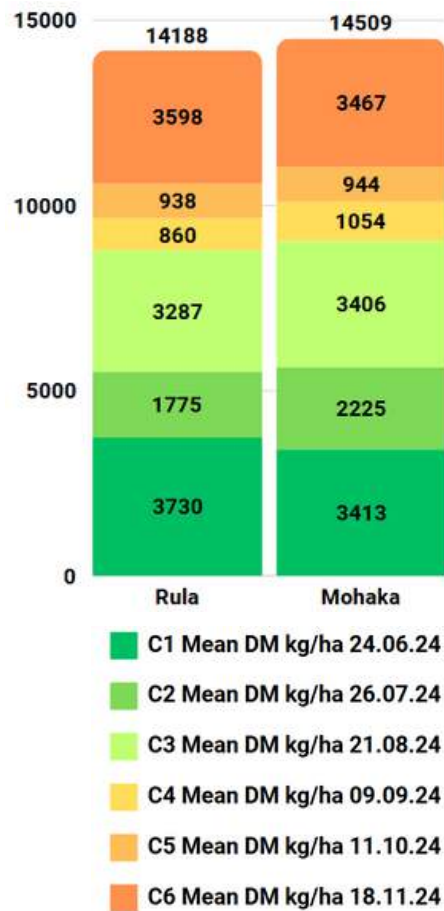
Key Features

- 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.

It also can be used to increase early production in perennial blends, and increase the growing season in short term blends. High year-round total forage yield, combined with good persistence and resistance to rust.

Right: Dry Matter Yield (kg/ha) results from 2024 of Rula and Mohaka in the second year of our Perennial Ryegrass Trial sown in 2023



Blend Suggestion



Rula Hybrid Ryegrass	20%
Bistro LE	20%
Perennial Ryegrass	
Avalon Plus LE	18%
Perennial Ryegrass	
Beast White Clover	12%
Rubitas Red Clover	6%
Sub Clover	14%
Puna Chicory	10%

Blend a diverse range of ryegrasses, with nutrient rich clovers and herbs to significantly enhance pasture production. This strategic combination not only boosts animal performance but also potentially improves consistent yield and long-term persistence.

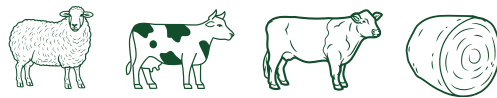


PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

Bistro LE Tetraploid Perennial Ryegrass

Key Features

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

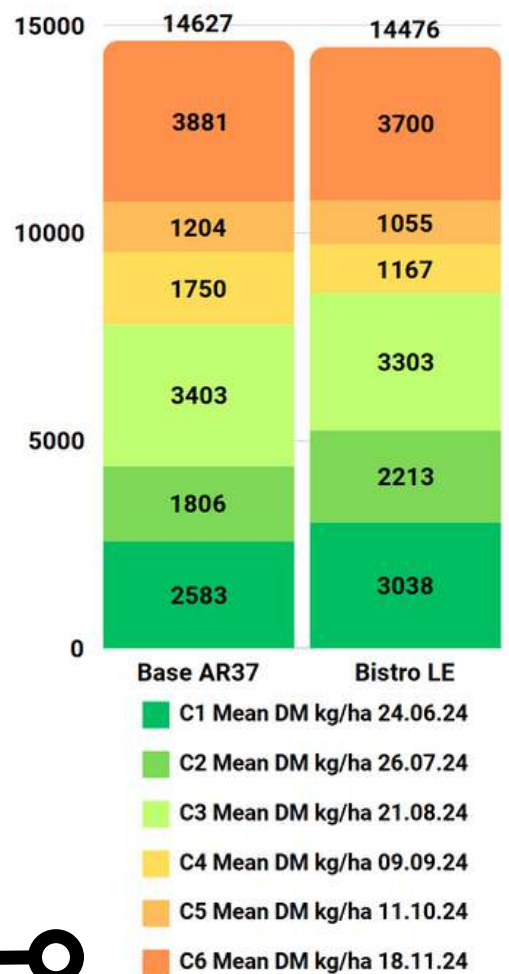



Late heading Tetraploid Perennial bred in Australia to combine early vigour, later maturity, persistence under heavy grazing, high tiller density, and rust resistance.

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.

Right: Dry Matter Yield (kg/ha) results from 2024 for Base AR37 and Bistro LE in the second year of our Perennial Ryegrass Trial sown in 2023




 Watch our Bistro LE overview on Youtube. [Click Here](#)

Best of Both Grasses

- Bistro LE** Perennial Ryegrass 60%
- Avalon Plus LE** Perennial Ryegrass 40%

By integrating these carefully selected ryegrasses, you improve the potential of creating a resilient and productive pasture that supports sustainable seasonal and annual production. The blends **Udder Bliss** and **Ryegrass S&B** (sheep and beef) are examples of how these two ryegrasses can be further enhanced with clovers.





Avalon PLUS LE

Diploid Perennial

Key Features

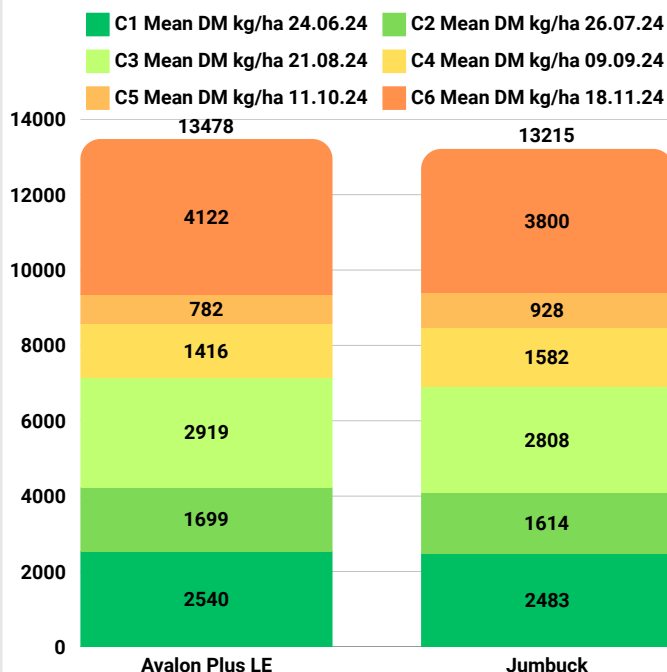
- Improved density when compared to Avalon
- Bred for persistence under grazing
- Improved late season quality
- Reduced risk of ryegrass staggers

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.

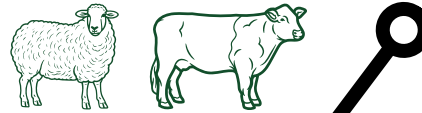
Below: Dry Matter Yield (kg/ha) results from 2024 for Avalon PLUS LE and Jumbuck in the second year of our Perennial Ryegrass Trial sown in 2023



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



Tough and Productive

Avalon Plus LE	30%
Perennial Ryegrass	
Marathon LE	30%
Perennial Ryegrass	
Sub Clover	40%

Avalon Plus and Marathon LE, blend well to potentially improve the potential of creating a resilient and productive pasture that supports sustainable seasonal and annual production. This blend suggestion might suit short seasons. The blend, **Valleys 650+** adds white clover for softer seasons.

Victorian Diploid Perennial

Victorian Ryegrass is a locally grown ecotype that is now grown in many Australian environments. While its production is often less than more modern varieties, it has long been recognised for its ability to persist, and may be a cost-effective option for some. Victorian Ryegrass has a standard endophyte.



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+

Get more from your Cocksfoot pasture.

TARGET Softbite

Deluxe Cocksfoot	27.5%
Prairie Grass	27.5%
Antas Sub Clover	9%
Yanco Sub Clover	9%
Rouse Sub Clover	9%
Narrikup Sub Clover	9%
Rosabrook Sub Clover	9%
Sowing Rate	10-20kg/ha

A high-performance blend for well drained soils. This mix will maintain high production levels throughout all seasons while retaining summer quality and palatability when conditions allow.

TARGET Hillside Hero

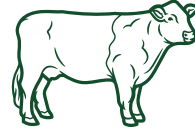
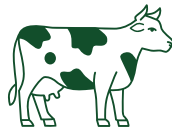
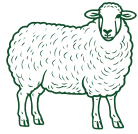
Yarck Cocksfoot	35%
Holdfast GT Phalaris	15%
Antas Sub Clover	10%
Yanco Sub Clover	10%
Rouse Sub Clover	10%
Narrikup Sub Clover	10%
Rosabrook Sub Clover	10%
Sowing Rate	10-20kg/ha

A durable blend for paddocks and seasons not suitable for perennial ryegrass. Subclover drives the system by fixing nitrogen, enhancing soil fertility, providing good winter growth and bolstering feed quality.



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+



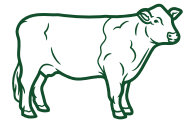
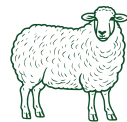
Prosper

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

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