

BROME GRASS

MATUA

QUALITY GRAZING

In a rotational or intensive grazing program, Matua can be expected to provide some of the highest quality grass forage available.

One key advantage of Matua is the fact that it keeps its palatability and quality even as it approaches maturity. Matua extends the grazing season by producing earlier, growing later and staying palatable even in the hot summer months. It can easily rival the feed value of lucerne and out produce ryegrass by as much as 40 percent.

Grazing management is the key to maximum production, quality, and stand life. For optimum gain per hectare, regrowth and persistence, Matua should be grazed in a strict rotation and harvested only after the plant reaches the boot or early seed stage. A rest period of 25-35 days is required between harvests depending on the time of year.

ESTABLISHMENT

Seed should be planted at a maximum of 0.6cm deep. Two directional (cross) drilling is preferred. Only certified Matua is processed to ensure easy flow through drills. However, if the seed is exposed to moisture prior to planting, flowability might be affected. Autumn planting is preferred due to the absence of weed competition. When planted in the Spring it should be done as early as possible. In dry areas, irrigation should be available as back up. Once established, early grazing or cutting may be the best means of weed control.

- Good drought tolerance.
 - Matua is not extremely winter-hardy, but has a good heat tolerance.
 - Will not tolerate water logging.
 - Sowing rate: 25-30kg/ha
 - This is a biannual grass, but produces large amounts of seed which fall to the ground and germinate. Thus giving a perennial effect.
 - Does not like heavy grazing, needs time to recover.
 - Can utilize high levels of nitrogen and effluent waste.
 - Long growing season.
 - Extremely palatable, even when in seedhead.
 - High quality forage
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KEYS FOR SUCCESS

When well managed, Matua is an incredible forage, greatly enhancing animal performance.

- Plant Matua on well drained soils of medium to high fertility.
- Harvest Matua only when the plant is in boot or early seed stage.

Matua should not be stockpiled like with fescues. However, it should be grazed in the late Autumn/early Winter if excess growth has occurred.

- Let Matua drop seed at least once a year.

CUTTING FOR HAY OR SILAGE

Matua can fit well into any operation as a hay crop or as silage. Because of its high digestibility, protein and energy, Matua makes excellent feed either in a pure stand or in a mixture with Clover or lucerne. When planted with lucerne it does a few things: it will allow extra years of harvesting the hay field, it will also increase the energy content of the hay or haylage.

With excellent regrowth potential it can be cut several times during each growing season.

