



RED MEAT UPDATES

T A S M A N I A

22 July 2016

Pasture Renovation

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Why did previous pasture not do well enough?

- **Over-grazing or under-grazing?**
- **Decline in soil fertility?**
- **Species, types, sowing rates?**
- Weeds / pests?
- Environmental extremes?

A combination of the above is commonly the case

Effects of grazing intensity

- Over-grazing (duration too long):
 - Loss of valuable species — bare ground:
cockchafer, erosion, annual weeds (e.g. vulpia (silver grass), barley grass, capeweed etc.)
- Lax / under-grazing:
 - Selective grazing of palatable species
 - Crowding out of prostrate species
 - Proliferation of weedy biennials/perennials(e.g. fog grass, bromes, sweet vernal etc)

Soil test — fertility targets

- pH_(water) 5.5 – 5.8 is adequate for grass/clover
5.9 + for lucerne
- Use Olsen P test for pasture work
 - ✓ P: target range 15 – 20ppm, ideally 18+
 - ✓ K: 130 – 150ppm for lighter soils and
200 – 250ppm for heavier clays
 - ✓ S: 12 – 20 ppm about right

Other elements

- Mg: don't overlook
(especially if applying solid rates of K)
- Mo: needed for legumes to function
(50 – 60g/ha of Mo every 3 – 5 years
Apply in conjunction with Cu)
- B: needed for legumes
- Co: sometimes needed in small amounts
- Se: May be needed
(impacts on animal performance)

Setting up a paddock for success

- Soil test and address nutrients as is feasible
- Allow 6 – 18 months preparation phase
- Weed control:
 - Grass weeds: topping, break crops, fallow
 - Broad-leaved weeds: as above, but many options in pasture
 - Onion weed/pin rush: break crop with Group B herbicide
 - Toad rush: as for above, also Metolachlor (Dual Gold¹) PSPE
- Cash crop / fodder crop opportunities

1 Syngenta

Establishment methods

High chance of
success



Less chance of
success

spray, cultivate, fallow, spray, drill

-

spray, cultivate, drill

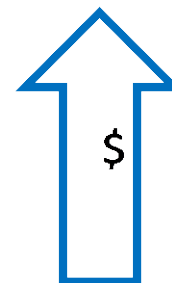
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spray, drill *

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drill into existing cover

Higher cost



Lower cost

- Better preparation offers higher success rates

* Spray, drill very effective in low-weed burden situations

Development in grasses



- Ryegrass: NW Spanish genetics

Improved hardiness and winter growth

e.g. Kidman, Rohan, Excess¹, Prospect²

Novel endophyte varieties **with no stagger risk are** available.

Finer-leaved, denser-tillering selections are often most suited.

scue: softer leaf types

e.g. Barnaby, Quantum II¹, Hummer²,



Development in grasses

- Phalaris: winter active, more acid tolerant
e.g. Holdfast GT, Advanced AT
- Cocksfoot: finer leaf types
e.g. Safin, Howlong, Savvy¹, Greenly²



1 Agricom, 2 Seed Force

Sub-clover – a key species

- Subterraneum

For well-drained, acidic sites

- Yanninicum

“go-to” species for wet / acid sites

- Brachycalycinum

New cultivars developed for acid tolerance and yield improvements.



There is a suite of new varieties in each ‘sub’ species.

Lucerne

- Grazing tolerance and performance
Developed for extensive grazing
under specific protocols:

SARDI Grazer, Stamina GT 6¹

- Plantain: may suit where lucerne fails



1 PGG Wrightson Seeds

Challenging sites

- Low pH / High Al³⁺ (where liming not feasible)
 - Phalaris: Advanced AT
 - Cocksfoot, sub-clover (some varieties)
- Salinity: options may include:
 - Phalaris, tall fescue, tall wheatgrass
 - Sub-clover (some varieties)
 - Strawberry and balansa clover
- Wet / waterlogged sites:
 - Yanni sub-clovers, strawberry, balansa clovers
 - tall fescue, phalaris, perennial ryegrass, plantain

Give clover a fighting chance

- Sowing rates

- Keep grass % relatively modest
- Increase clover %

- Early grazing management

Open up the sward, let the clovers have room:
(an early, short-duration and even first grazing)

- Herbicide timing

Timely sowing + successful seed placement will offer quick, even emergence, which will assist in effective herbicide timing.

Sub-clover sowing rates

- Keep the sowing rate up for sub-clovers:

Trial Data:

Sowing rate kg/ha	Seed Cost / ha	After 2 years:					
		2013 DM/ha	2014 DM/ha	Total DM/ha	Buried seed kg/ha @25mm Feb 2015	Nitrogen fixed (est.) kg/ha	
"Cost-saving" sowing rate:	2	\$17	1197	4813	6010	402	82
Typical rate in industry:	4	\$34	2020	6988	9007	632	119
Minimum rate recommended:	6	\$51	2988	8590	11578	583	146
Good sowing rate:	8	\$68	4508	9315	13823	791	158
Top producers' sowing rate	10	\$85	5228	11579	16807	846	197
	15	\$128	6607	13934	20540	871	237

- Yield gains, higher nitrogen (N), better seed set to assist resilience.

Trial conducted 2013 – 15 Heritage Seeds' Research Station, Howlong NSW.

Cultivar: Mintaro.

Post-sowing care

- Weed control is usually needed post sowing:
(get specific advice for options and timing).
- Monitor for pests: insects, mites, slugs/snails.
- Graze early to provide space for clovers.
- It is worth considering 20 – 40kg/ha of N during the first 3 – 4 months to stimulate growth.
- A new pasture may need nursing for 9 – 12 months or more to get it fit for the long-term.

Pasture maintenance

- Measure performance / pasture growth:
(grazing records, pasture measurement).
- Soil test at regular intervals (say every 3 – 4 years).
- Fertiliser budget: apply maintenance PKS (+ traces if needed).
- Pests: monitor and respond
- Weeds: broadleaf — generally fairly straightforward
(but control before sub-clovers start to set flower)
grass weeds — winter cleaning and/or pasture top

Top three take home messages

1. Preparation: weeds and fertility
2. Select species/type/cultivars to maximise long-term prospects.
 - ⇒ Valid new varieties are available.
3. After care: nurse new pastures into being, then monitor and maintain.

Top three tools and training

1. MLA website & associated links
2. Fertiliser guides from Impact & IPL
3. Proprietary seed company literature



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