

Sowing Guide

For pasture seed.

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Pasture Sowing Guide

1. Soil fertility:

Take a soil sample to your local agronomist to determine what fertiliser, lime or gypsum is required. (Always plant seed with a high Phosphorous (P), low Nitrogen (N) fertilizer such as MAP – Do not mix fertiliser with seed)

2. What seed to plant:

Choose the right seed blend for your climate and application from the Valley Seeds range of blends. If you require additional assistance call 1800 226 905.

3. How to sow:

Graze the paddock to a low level and spray the area using a non-selective herbicide such as Glyphosate. If the paddock is reasonably level you can “direct drill” or broadcast seed. If the paddock is uneven you may choose to cultivate prior to sowing. If cultivating carry out the following steps:

- i. Cultivate to a fine seed bed with discs, rotary hoe or a tyned implement, followed by harrows or repeat rotary hoeing. Aim to produce a fine, firm and level surface that is not compacted and not over worked to a powder.
- ii. Leave stand until you see a germination of weed seeds. This may take two to three weeks. Irrigate if necessary.
- iii. After weeds have germinated, spray a second time using a non-selective herbicide such as Glyphosate.
- iv. Sow fertilizer and seed twenty four hours after the herbicide or as soon as possible after that. If broadcasting seed, the sowing rate should be double the recommended rate compared to that of seed sown by a drill seeder, where the depth can be more accurately controlled. Immediately following broadcasting the seed, the soil needs to be lightly raked with pasture harrows or mesh to improve seed to soil contact. Sowing using a drill seeder is preferable to broadcasting.



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4. When to sow:

Sowing times vary with climate. As a rule of thumb spring and autumn are most successful. In cooler climates autumn sowing allows most grasses to properly establish their root system through the wet winter period prior to the drought stress of summer. In sub-tropical climates sowing can take place from autumn to spring. Try to choose a time in your area when your newly sown pasture runs the least risk of being washed away by seasonal rains or new growth burnt off by hot dry winds.



5. Pest management:

As your new pasture emerges keep an eye out for insect pests such as Red legged earthmite or slugs that can attack the new emerging seedlings. If they are present ask an agronomist to make a recommendation of what insecticide to apply.

6. When to graze:

The first grazing can occur after approximately 6-8 weeks. First test a number of plants in the new pasture by pinching it between your thumb and finger and pulling, if the plant breaks off, rather than pulls out it is ready for grazing. Remove stock when the pasture height is between 3-5cm and allow to re-grow to 10-15cm before re-grazing.



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