



- Excellent dry matter production
- Suitable for dairying and intensive sheep and beef
- Bred for increased sugars and higher digestibility (ME)
- No Lolitrem B (the main agent causing ryegrass staggers)
- Performs best on sites with reasonable soil moisture and medium to high fertility

Farm type
Without Endophyte



Farm type **Endo5**



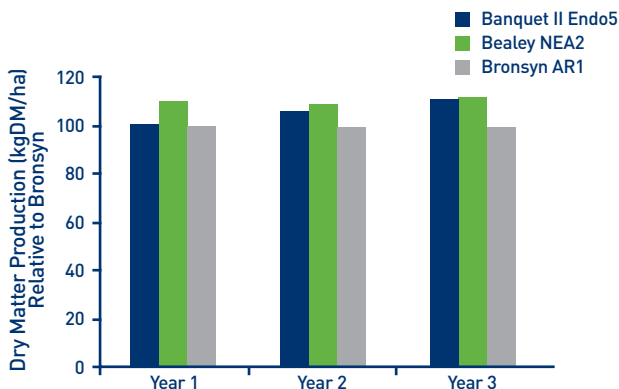
Banquet® II tetraploid long rotation ryegrass is suitable for perennial pasture and has been selected for increased sugar content and digestibility, which improves rumen efficiency, animal performance, and protein utilisation. Banquet II tetraploid long rotation ryegrass contains a novel endophyte (Endo5) that has been successfully tested in a AgResearch animal safety trial.

Heading Date

Early	Mid-Season	Late	Very Late
		Banquet II: 18 days later than Nui	

Dry Matter Production

The following dry matter data compares Banquet II Endo5 and Bealey NEA2 (expressed as a percentage of Bronsyn AR1). Yields of Banquet II versus Bealey were similar when averaged over three years. Banquet II outperforms Bronsyn AR1 for dry matter production, and with all the advantages of a tetraploid ryegrass.



Year one mean of 7 trials, year two mean of 7 trials, year three mean of 5 trials.

Sowing and Establishment

Banquet II tetraploid long rotation ryegrass seed is heavier than diploid seed, so ideally should be sown at a 40% higher rate than diploid cultivars. Sow at a minimum of 22kg/ha in a mix with Superstrike treated clover. Banquet II tetraploid long

rotation ryegrass performs best on sites with reasonable soil moisture and medium to high fertility.

Mix Suitability

Banquet II tetraploid long rotation ryegrass combines well with other components of a pasture mix (e.g. tetraploid short rotation ryegrass, tetraploid Italian ryegrass and Grasslands Puna II chicory).

Grazing Management

As with all grasses, overgrazing of Banquet II tetraploid long rotation ryegrass should be avoided. Given the higher palatability of tetraploids, stock may graze it to lower residuals than diploid perennial ryegrasses. As Banquet II tetraploid long rotation ryegrass with Endo5 contains ergovaline for insect protection, avoid prolonged set-stocking or grazing of fresh regrowth of these pastures during summer and autumn.



Stock grazing Banquet II tetraploid long rotation ryegrass.

Completely resowing a new Southland dairy conversion with Banquet II tetraploid long rotation ryegrass has enabled it to immediately reap top milksolids production on a largely grass-based system.

With production of 1300kgMS/ha achieved in the conversion's second year, up from 1150kgMS/ha in its first, the property, River Downs at Croydon near Gore, is believed to be the region's highest producing conversion. The farm, milking 1000 cows, is run by manager and equity partner Shayne Ryan. Now in its third season, the 340 hectare effective property alongside the Mataura River was converted in early 2008 from a former beef finishing farm.

The best performing varieties available were sown, including 95 hectares of Banquet II tetraploid long rotation ryegrass with Endo5 for under the effluent irrigator. "Banquet II seems to grow strongly all year round. The cows love it," said Shayne. "It has thrived on the heavy soil types and under the effluent irrigator."

The quality of the pasture meant the farm was able to be stocked at 3 cows per hectare from year one, he said.



Hilary Webber and Shayne Ryan
Gore, Southland
Photograph courtesy of Dairy Exporter