

Post Drill Pasture Care Guide.

We realize that there is a lot more involved in establishing a successful pasture than simply purchasing top quality seed and introducing it into the paddock. With that in mind, we have prepared the following post drill pasture care tips to help insure that your investment in the new pasture seeds technology is more successful.

Your new pasture.

Your new pasture establishes better if grazed more often. More frequent grazing will keep your new pastures leafy. Leafy pasture has a higher M/E value, typically 11-12 compared to dead leaf at 7-8 M/E. Young clover plants are slower to establish than ryegrass therefore are more susceptible to shading from ryegrass. More frequent grazing helps to encourage better clover establishment.

Clover will not start producing nitrogen for 9-12 months after drilling therefore apply small amounts of nitrogen more often i.e. 25kgs / N / ha. The first nitrogen application should occur soon after the first grazing. Grazing young pasture more often will also force the ryegrass to produce more tiller numbers.

The first grazing.

The first grazing should occur when the new plants cannot be pulled from the ground. Do graze while dry ground conditions are present.

Normally at this stage pasture height will be between 8 - 10cm high and should be grazed down to 4 - 6 cm.

Typically, in cultivated ground 10 weeks after drilling and in direct drilled paddocks 6 weeks after drilling.

For the first grazing you should use young stock if possible as they are lighter on and less damaging to your new pasture.

Avoid.

Under grazing or making hay and silage from your new pasture will lead to more "dead matter" in the base of it and will shade out the young slower establishing clover plants, and can lead to increased disease pressure in it.

During periods of dry conditions extra care should be taken with new pastures.

Weed Control.

Weed control is best 3 - 7 days after the first light grazing.

Weeds are best controlled early between the cotyledon and 3 - 4 leaf stage. White and red clover should have reached the first trifoliated leaf stage, grasses have at least 3 leaves and there is at least 70% total ground cover.

We recommend the use of "Clover friendly" chemicals that contain MCPB or both MCPB and small amounts of MCPA.

For more information on this post drilling pasture weed control guide please contact:



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