

Cropmark **Blade** Italian Ryegrass



DESCRIPTION

Blade Italian ryegrass is a broad leafed, densely tillered diploid Italian ryegrass bred for fast establishment and very strong year-round growth with high winter, spring yields to help minimise feed deficits at that time of the year.

Being very late heading (+24 days) and with very good disease resistance, Blade will maintain feed quality for up to 10 days longer into spring than traditional Italian ryegrasses, making it ideally suited for improved milk yields and for improved livestock finishing around this time.

BENEFITS

- Rapid establishment and re-growth
- High yield performance across all seasons, with strong winter and spring growth
- Very late heading (+24 days) for carrying pasture quality longer into spring
- Very good disease resistance
- Suitable for short term pastures (1-2 years) or for over-sowing into run-out or damaged pastures to extend their life

SUITABILITY / USE

Blade is recommended for use with all high performance systems and livestock types (sheep, cattle, deer, goats) as a specialist short term (1-2 year) pasture, or for over-sowing into run out or damaged pastures to extend their life.

PERFORMANCE

Variety	Establishment	Autumn	Winter	E Spring	L Spring	Summer	Total
Blade	117	109	111	116	112	109	110
Assest AR37	69	111	95	93	100	118	106
Sonik	105	104	112	106	102	105	104
Tabu	107	106	106	103	97	105	104
Feast 2	101	101	98	101	104	100	101
Warrior	103	105	101	101	99	91	99
Accelerate	102	91	98	102	98	96	97
Velocity	96	72	79	77	88	76	80
Mean (kgs)	1,752	3,419	1,192	1,923	3,351	4,101	13,151
Mean (%)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
LSD	81	294	100	127	193	237	631
%CV	11.6	19.5	20.8	16.4	14.3	13.7	11.9

Source: Pooled dry matter yield results of 12 trials conducted by Cropmark Seeds Ltd on farms in at Hamilton, Tokoroa, Taupo, Feilding Masterton, Ashburton, Burnham, Norwood, Woodbury, Milton, Knapdale and Dacre, 2010-2014



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SOWING

Blade can be sown in either autumn or spring at 20-25kg/ha as a pure stand, or at 6- 8 kg/ha in mixes into a fine, firm and moist seedbed to a depth of 1-2cm when soil temperatures are above 8°C. Rolling with a Cambridge roller or equivalent after sowing is recommended to enhance seed-to-soil contact and therefore aid germination of the seed.

AGRONOMIC TRAITS

PERSISTENCE (years)	HEADING DATE (days re. NUI = 0)	SOWING RATE (kg/ha)
1-2 *	+24	20-25
RUST RESISTANCE	WINTER & EARLY SPRING ACTIVITY	MINIMUM RAINFALL (mls)
9 **	Very high	450+

* Subject to management and climatic conditions

** 1= Susceptible 9 = Resistant

For optimum production, soil fertility status is critical. Fertiliser applications should be based on soil tests. Consult your local fertiliser representative. An application of a nitrogenous fertiliser after first grazing will enhance establishment and yields.

MANAGEMENT

Use the “Pluck test” to check when the new pasture is ready for its first grazing. First grazing should be a quick, light grazing using sheep or young cattle to enhance tillering of the plant and encourage clover growth. Thereafter Blade should be grazed when it reaches 2,500 – 3,000kg dry matter per hectare to maximize growth rates and forage quality.

Blade can be rotationally grazed or set stocked, although best results will be obtained from rotational grazing.

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For further information on Blade please contact Zac Geldof
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