Drylander Diploid Perennial Ryegrass

*Lolium perenne*

Drylander perennial ryegrass produces good early growth from autumn through to spring. Drylander is well adapted to Australian conditions. It survives drought and is able to withstand a period of several hot dry months under an annual rainfall of 550+mm. Drylander seed is produced and harvested only from dryland production seed crops to maintain its Dryland survivability integrity. Drylander responds quickly to autumn rain, is frost tolerant and, with its excellent early cool season growth, provides good winter feed. Drylander withstands hard grazing and is a leafy, densely-tillered plant producing abundant quality forage through the growing season.

- High winter activity _ summer dormant
- A leafy and well tillered derivative of Victorian perennial ryegrass germplasm
- Suitable for fringe areas of perennial ryegrass usage
- Extremely vigorous winter and early spring production

**Seed agronomy table**

| Heading date | -7 days |
Maturity | Early - Mid
Lifespan | 7 - 10 years
Min Rainfall (mm) | 550
Seeding Rate | Kg/Ha
Dryland | 10-15
High Rainfall / Irrigation | 20-25

Heading date: 0 days = Nui perennial ryegrass.

**Blends using this Seed**

Northern Horse HS Blend
Dryland Medic Row Blend
Dryland Sub Clover Row Blend
All Grass Row LR Blend
All Grass Row HR Blend
Irrigated Row Blend

**Enterprises this seed is being used for**

Sheep
Beef Cattle
Diary Cattle
Horse
Hay & Silage

**Strengths**

- Easily established, highly productive and nutritious under grazing, moderate winter and summer growth, rapid regrowth.

**Limitations**

- Requires moderate to high soil fertility. Does not withstand heavy grazing pressure through drought. Susceptible to cockchafer and cricket damage.

**Plant Description**

**Plant:** Densely tufted, multi-tillered perennial with fibrous root system.
**Stems:** 30-90 cm.
**Leaves:** fine (~7 mm), dark green, hairless, under surface shiny, blade folded about mid-rib in young shoot, leaf-base usually dark red.
**Seedhead:** spike ~20 cm, spikelet usually <10 florets/spikelet; awnless lemma.
**Seeds:** fawn, flat, awnless, ~6mm long. Approx. ~520,000/kg (diploid cvv).

**Pasture type and use**

Grazing and fodder conservation. Most widely sown pasture grass in temperate regions.

**Where it grows**

**Rainfall:** > 550mm+.
**Soils:** Medium-heavy, moderate-high fertility (eg Olsen P >12, 0-10 cm). Tolerates slight salinity.
**Temperature:** Cold and frost tolerant, growth constrained by high temperature.

**Establishment**

**Companion species:**
**Grasses:** Perennial ryegrass.
**Legumes:** white clover, medics and sub clover.
**Sowing/planting rates as single species:** 10-25 kg/ha.
**Sowing/planting rates in mixtures:** 5-10 kg/ha.
**Sowing time:** Autumn and spring.
**Fertiliser:** P & possibly N at sowing.

**Management**

**Maintenance fertiliser:** requires fertile soil to persist. ~10 kg P/ha. Monitor S, K, Cu especially. Supply N by clover/fertiliser. Maintain Colwell P ~30 (WA), Olsen P >12.
**Grazing/cutting:** Tolerates close, continuous grazing except if drought-stressed. Graze at 2.5-3 leaf stage to optimise yield under rotational grazing. Well suited to hay/silage.
**Ability to spread:** Will spread if allowed to seed.
**Weed potential:** Widely naturalised on fertile soils in temperate Australia.
**Major pests:** Red and black-headed cockchafer, black field cricket, white-fringed weevil, African black beetle, corbies, underground grass caterpillar.
**Major diseases:** Crown rust, stem rust, barley yellow dwarf virus, ryegrass mosaic virus.
**Herbicide susceptibility:** In considering selective herbicides consider the stage of growth of the ryegrass and what non-target companion species are present.
Animal production

**Feeding value:** High nutritive value.

**Palatability:** Palatable.

**Production potential:** High yields; highly responsive to fertiliser and irrigation.

**Livestock disorders/toxicity:** Cultivars with wild endophyte can cause perennial ryegrass toxicosis and ill-thrift. Bacterial infection of seedhead can occasionally occur and result in ergot poisoning.