Rocket Tetraploid Annual Italian Ryegrass

*Lolium multiflorum / west erwolds*

Rocket is a tetraploid annual ryegrass selected under intensive Australian grazing conditions. Rocket establishes quickly with explosive emergence in both broadcast and sown situations and in trials has been one of the highest winter producing tetraploid annual varieties. It has good rust resistance and will provide an extra grazing over Tetila with Rocket's later maturity. Rocket shows high sugar, protein and water content making it nutritious and palatable to all classes of livestock, increasing voluntary animal intake, excelling animal performance – ultimately increasing productivity with Rocket.

- Highly autumn, winter active
- Explosive emergence and vigour
- High water soluble carbohydrates plant sugars make Rocket highly palatable
- Rapid regrowth after grazing
- High level of rust resistance
- Broader glossy leaves with longer blades have a greater resistance to lodging. This enables high yields and achievement of outstanding forage, hay and silage production
Seed agronomy table

| Heading date | +8 days |
| Lifespan | 550 |
| Min Rainfall (mm) | |
| Seeding Rate | Kg/Ha |
| Dryland | 10-15 |
| High Rainfall / Irrigation | 25-30 |

Heading date: 0 days = Tetila annual ryegrass.

Enterprises this seed is being used for

Sheep
Beef Cattle
Horse
Hay & Silage

Strengths

• Very strong cool season growth and good nutritive value.

Limitations

• Short-lived.

Plant Description

Plant: Annual. Leaves: hairless; blades up to 400 x 12 mm; young leaves rolled in bud. Seedhead: spike up to 30 cm long; spikelets edge-on to the rachis which is recessed opposite each spikelet; 10-20 florets/spikelet, laterally flattened up to 25 mm long. Straight, fine awn up to 10 mm. Seeds: ~230,000-250,000 tetraploid.

Pasture type and use

Short term pasture and high-yielding silage/hay crop.

Where it grows

Rainfall: >600mm + Soils: Medium-heavy texture; high fertility. Temperature: Cold tolerant.
Establishment

**Companion species:** Grasses & or cereals: Annual ryegrass & forage cereals. **Legumes:** Medic, red and Persian clovers. **Other:** Forage brassicas. **Sowing/planting rates as single species:** 20-30 kg/ha. **Sowing/planting rates in mixtures:** 10-15 kg/ha. **Sowing time:** Autumn. **Fertiliser:** P and N.

Management

**Maintenance fertiliser:** Especially P and N. **Grazing/cutting:** Well suited to fodder conservation. Strip or rotational grazing facilitates efficient utilisation and maximum regrowth. Graze at 2-3 leaf stage. **Ability to spread:** Will spread from seed; seed set will occur if ungrazed/not cut and this will be associated with a substantial trade off in nutritive value. **Weed potential:** Low unless allowed to set seed. **Major pests:** Red and black-headed cockchafer, black field cricket, white-fringed weevil, African black beetle, corbies, underground grass caterpillar. **Major diseases:** Rust. **Herbicide susceptibility:** Glyphosate.

Animal production

**Feeding value:** High. **Palatability:** High and usually higher for tetraploid cultivars. **Production potential:** High winter growth; rapid spring growth pre-flowering early summer. **Livestock disorders/toxicity:** The ryegrass endophyte (Neotyphodium lolii) is not present in Italian ryegrass.