



- High dry matter production
- A true perennial for greater persistence
- Fast regrowth after grazing or cutting
- Semi-erect for better utilisation than Puna chicory
- Better winter activity than Puna chicory

Farm type



Grasslands Puna II chicory is a New Zealand bred broad-leaved, perennial forage herb bred from true perennial chicory parents. Puna II chicory has high nutritional quality, producing high yields from spring to late autumn. Extensive animal data has been generated on chicory (much of it on Puna II chicory's predecessor Grasslands Puna chicory). Grazing evaluations and trials have confirmed Grasslands Puna II chicory's high dry matter production, improved regrowth after grazing and improved persistence.

Sowing and Establishment

Chicory should be sown no deeper than 10mm. Seed may be broadcast or direct drilled under favourable conditions. Soil temperatures of 12 degrees celcius for spring sowings are recommended, however, early autumn sowing is possible, as long as the chicory has established before going dormant in the cool season. Superstrike seed treatment is recommended to improve establishment.

Mix Suitability

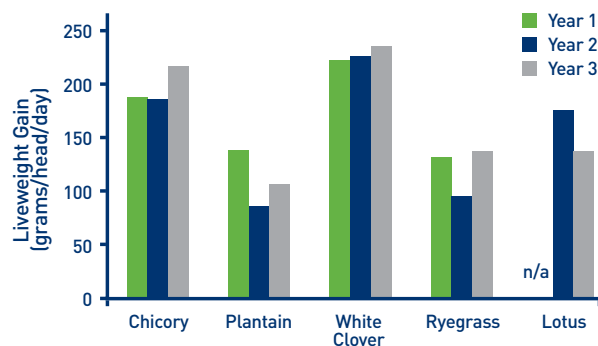
Chicory combines well with most grasses and clovers and can be added to a pasture mix at 0.5-2kg/ha. Chicory stands are established at 5-7kg/ha (Superstrike treated seed), with white and/or red clovers at 4-6kg/ha.

Grazing Management

Grasslands Puna II chicory is cool season dormant, but with high growth rates over spring, summer and autumn. Chicory should be rotationally grazed for best performance and persistence. Hard grazing, particularly after damage to the crown in wet conditions, may affect production and persistence.

Effect of pasture species on lamb liveweight gain

Animal performance (liveweight gain) on chicory is better than ryegrass and plantain, and close to that of white clover.



Reference: Fraser, T.J. and Rowarth, J.S. 1996. Proceedings of the New Zealand Grassland Association 58: 44-52.



Bill Harding, who farms the family farm 'Blink Bonnie' at Fordell near Wanganui had heard good things about chicory for finishing lambs, so set up a programme in 2007 to sow Puna II chicory in 2008. Bill had phenomenal growth following sowing, with lambs grazing in 48 days.

In January 2010 Bill weighed the lambs on and off his best clover flush pastures and his 20 hectare Puna II chicory block. The lambs gained 355gm liveweight per day on the pasture block and 310gm liveweight per day on the chicory. The difference was the stocking rate on the Puna II chicory block which was 3 times the rate which could be fed on the pasture.

" We recognised there is some maintenance required to keep a stand of Puna II chicory and clover in good order, but we are now well set up to go into our third season later this year. Kilo's of quality lamb out the gate is the real advantage we can see for chicory. The results speak for themselves."



Bill Harding
'Blink Bonnie', Wanganui