

FORAGE FOCUS

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For more information call 0800 805 505

PGG Wrightson Seeds



Best Practice

Please note: The recommendations within this document are specifically for the Northern North Island. For specific recommendations for areas outside of this area, please contact PGG Wrightson Seeds on 0800 805 505.

Pasja is an early maturing turnip hybrid that is characterised by the production of large amounts of leaf and little bulb. It has been bred for rapid growth and high stock performance. Well anchored in the soil the crown enables the leaf to regrow vigorously, allowing multiple grazings.

Pasja provides a high quality summer feed (12.0 MJ ME/kg DM), free from Facial Eczema spores, and endophyte toxins ideal for weaner calf, lamb, deer and cattle finishing and replacement ewe hogget development. In ideal circumstances cattle would be stood off during periods of pugging risk to reduce damage. However during extended periods of heavy weather some pasture damage is inevitable.

The following notes are intended as a guide to increase the reliability of growing the crop, and for capturing the value with grazing animals.

Sow early

Aim to have the crop sown by late October / mid November. Spray ROUNDUP® plus diazinon to control old pasture and springtails. Ensure sufficient ground preparation, to form a fine FIRM seedbed, then broadcast or drill 4 kg Pasja / ha. Roll a number of times to compact the soil, removing the air before the air removes the soil moisture. Always use SUPERSTRIKE® treated seed.

Use lots of fertiliser

The higher the soil fertility, the quicker the Pasja will establish. The faster the Pasja crop establishes, the greater the weed suppression. Pasja responds strongly to Phosphate and Nitrogen. For best establishment ensure that a source of nitrogen and phosphate is available at, or shortly after sowing. Apply...

Nitrogen at 50-60 kg N/ha

Phosphate at 50-60 kg P/ha

If set stocking apply 300 kg/ha DAP at sowing. If rotational grazing apply 200 kg/ha DAP at sowing and 100 - 200 kg/ha DAP after the first grazing.

Ideally pH would be around 6.0 or better.

Avoid use of fertilisers with sulphur. Growing Pasja in soils with high sulphur content, increases the risk of animal health problems related to forage brassicas.

Roll, Roll, Roll...

This can't be overstated. Too often the only area of a paddock where a crop germinates is in the tractor wheel tracks...!

Rolling removes air from between the soil particles. If it isn't removed, when the soil heats up, the air will move out, taking soil moisture with it.

Apply herbicides

If weeds are not controlled, a lot of soil moisture is removed by them later in the season, when the Pasja most needs it, not to mention the competition for nutrients and space.

For control of broadleaf weeds apply RADIATE™ and for germinating grass weeds, apply CENTURION™ Plus. The smaller the weeds the better the control. RADIATE™ has residual activity that may affect clover establishment, check the product label.

Don't over graze

Introduce stock from 42 days after sowing. Pasja should ideally be rotationally grazed but can be set stocked. Either way ensure that grazing pressure is not so high that the crown is exposed. If this happens regrowth will be affected. For good recovery, graze to leave at least 30% of the leaf area.

Set Stocked: Introduce lambs at 40-70 / ha depending on crop inputs / vigour / rainfall potential. Better to start with less than required and add more if the crop appears to be getting ahead, rather than have to remove some. With weaner calves start with 7-8 / ha.

Rotational: As above, moving the animals on a 7-10 day cycle through 3-4 paddocks. Be wary of introducing hungry animals to a new crop area, especially soon after applying nitrogen fertiliser, as nitrate poisoning can occur.

Give animals fibre

Animals grazing on Pasja will perform better if they have access to fibre. Feeding straw, coarse hay or stemmy/rank pasture causes the production of saliva, which reduces rumen acidity, aiding digestion and stimulating cud chewing.

After the Crop

Spray out with ROUNDUP® and establish new perennial ryegrass / clover sward.

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SUPERSTRIKE is a registered trademark of Wrightson Limited
RADIATE are trademarks of Dow AgroSciences
Centurion Plus is a registered trademark of Tomen Corporation

NB. The chemical recommendations included in this material are intended as a guide only. At all times when using chemicals follow the label instructions and for more specific recommendations on the use of insecticides and herbicides consult with a chemical company representative.