

# FORAGE FOCUS

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For more information call 0800 805 505

**PGG Wrightson Seeds**

## PGG Wrightson Seeds Programmed Approach™ to Pasture Renewal

Brassica forage crops, while being an excellent source of high quality and quantity feed to cover feed deficits and improve animal productivity, are also a logical part of a pasture renewal programme.

Using a brassica crop is an integral part of a systematic approach to pasture renewal that PGG Wrightson Seeds has developed called the PROGRAMMED APPROACH™. The PROGRAMMED APPROACH™ encourages the view that grass is a crop and by treating pastures as a crop, farmers ensure they have a good supply of quality feed all year round.

The PROGRAMMED APPROACH™ to pasture renewal allows a farmer to capture the full value of improved pasture genetics available in today's new grass and clover .

### March – Year 1

#### Action 1

Spray out existing pasture with ROUNDUP® Transorb + Dicamba / VERSATILL® to control all pasture species, including clover.

#### Reason

*Capture the full value of ROUNDUP® Transorb by applying it in the Autumn, let it move into the roots with the sap flow. Successful control of perennial weeds such as Californian thistle, couch and paspalum, begins with an Autumn application of ROUNDUP®. Dicamba or VERSATILL® is used to remove existing clover. With NO clover in the pasture, the population of clover pests, such as nematodes and Clover Root Weevil, will decline, enhancing clover establishment after the summer crop.*

#### Action 2

Graze pasture three days after spraying. In Northland mulch dense Kikuyu after grazing.

Apply 100kg/ha Urea to overcome "Nitrogen lockup" Drill in a winter active ryegrass such as FEAST II™. Always use SUPERSTRIKE® treated seed for grass to grass drilling, to protect against Black Beetle and Argentine stem weevil.

#### Reason

*Begin next year's summer cropping program by building the winter feed platform with FEAST II™. These paddocks will go from being the worst to being some of the best on the farm during the winter.*

#### Action 3

Take the opportunity to build fertility prior to summer cropping, with applications of lime and capital dressings of fertiliser.

#### Reason

The best crops are grown in the most fertile paddocks.

### October/Early November – Year 1

#### Action 1

Spray out the FEAST II™ with ROUNDUP® plus an insecticide to prepare for the summer brassica crop.

#### Reason

*Include an insecticide such as chlorpyrifos or Diazinon to control "springtails", a major pest of germinating brassicas.*

#### Action 2

Prepare a fine, FIRM clod-free seedbed and establish a summer crop of BARKANT™ turnips.

#### Reason

*The summer crop provides high quality summer feed, rich in energy. Substitution ensures pastures aren't over-grazed. The turnip crop helps break not only the weed cycle but also the pest cycle (nematodes and clover root weevil) as well as remove wild endophyte from the paddock.*

#### Action 3

Manage the crop as per the BARKANT™ best practice recommendations, applying good amounts of fertiliser and controlling weeds and pests.

#### Reason

*A 12 t/ha DM crop is worth approx. 800 kg MS/ha through the cow, (based on 1.0 kg DM turnips gives 80 gm MS).  
At \$4.00 this equates to \$3200/ha.*



## February/March – Year 2

### Action 1

After grazing the crop leave it fallow for a few weeks.

#### Reason

*This is to allow any residual perennial weeds to develop ready for spraying, and to allow soil moisture to build up.*

### Action 2

Spray with ROUNDUP® Transorb to control all established perennial and annual weeds.

#### Reason

*This is the last chance to clean up these weeds prior to going into a perennial pasture.*

### Action 3

Direct-drill a high performing perennial pasture (see examples listed below), which may or may not include novel endophyte. Select varieties that flower late and have been selected for low aftermath heading.

#### Reason

*The break provided by the turnip crop, greatly reduces the incidence of nematodes, clover root weevil, wild ryegrass endophytes and perennial weeds. Now is the time to introduce new technology grasses and clovers.*

### Action 4

Sow QUARTET® II perennial ryegrass + Kopu II white clover. Add Puna II chicory if thistles and ragwort aren't a problem.

#### Reason

*Quartet II is a low aftermath heading variety which flowers four weeks later than the standard. Being a tetraploid it is more palatable than diploid grasses and is clover friendly. The AR1 endophyte makes it staggers and heat stress free. Quartet II's low aftermath heading results in improved summer pasture quality due to fewer seedheads.*

### Action 5

Always sow new grasses with fertiliser, broadcast nitrogen at 30-40 kg/ha (Urea at 65-85 kg/ha).

#### Reason

*It should be assumed that the Brassica crop has removed significant N, P, K and S, which needs to be replaced.*

## May/June – Year 2

### Action 1

Graze quickly and lightly as soon as seedlings are firmly rooted.

#### Reason

*Large cows are okay, but ideally lighter stock classes (e.g. sheep or calves) should be used to lightly graze the new pasture. If using cows, pick a dry day and only graze for 2-3 hours to minimise "pulling" or "pugging".*

### Action 2

Spray with PRESIDE™ or MCPB at 5-6 weeks after sowing to control germinating broadleaf weeds in the new pasture crop.

#### Reason

*Failure to put this spray on, is likely to result in potentially serious, long-term broadleaf weed competition in the new pasture: from docks, chickweed etc.*

### Action 3

Continue to apply 30-40 kg Nitrogen / ha after each grazing.

#### Reason

*It will be 9-12 months before clover nitrogen fixation occurs.*

## The PROGRAMMED APPROACH™ offers these important benefits:

- Opportunity to break the perennial weed cycle using Roundup®, leading to pastures free of couch, Californian thistle etc.
- Opportunity to break the clover pest cycle (e.g. Clover Root Weevil and nematodes), leading to better clover establishment and production.
- Opportunity to break the wild endophyte cycle to allow summer-safe grazing with introduced novel endophytes.
- Encourages forward planning and the opportunity to address fertility and drainage issues earlier, resulting in more productive pastures and crops.
- Increases the success of no-tillage systems.

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