



Gordon Martinovich (left) with Jeremy Klingenden

Gordon, who farms a sheep and beef property at Ohakune, says the results were “brilliant” from finishing 2000 lambs on a 30 hectare Puna II chicory and red and white clover mix for the first time last season.

“The speed at which we drafted the lambs off the chicory compared with grass paddocks was particularly noticeable,” he says. Lambs were gaining 400g a day on chicory compared with no more than 200g a day on older grass paddocks.

“I weaned lambs on to it, mid-January, and ran about 1000 lambs on it right the way through. So when I drafted lambs off, I put more on. Previously lambs were grazed on grass paddocks and only averaged 16.5kg. This season we averaged 17.5kg over everything with the best lambs on the chicory achieving 19.5kg.”

Lambs were grazed on the Puna II chicory and clover mix until mid May and Gordon expects to get three years from the crop.



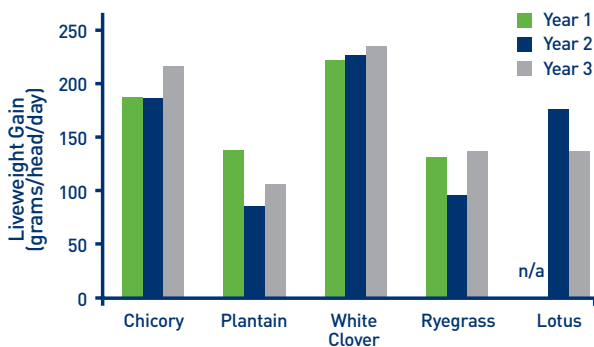
- High dry matter production
- A true perennial with good persistence
- Fast regrowth after grazing or cutting
- Semi-erect for better utilisation than Puna

Grasslands Puna II is a New Zealand bred broad-leaved, perennial forage herb bred from true perennial chicory parents. Puna II 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's predecessor Grasslands Puna). Grazing evaluations and trials have confirmed Grasslands Puna II's high dry matter production, improved regrowth after grazing and good persistence.

Animal Health Benefits

Chicory is known to aid high animal performance and has been associated with reduced effects of internal parasites on lamb and weaner deer growth.

Effect of pasture species on lamb liveweight gain



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

Stock Suitability



Sowing and Establishment

Chicory should be sown no deeper than 10mm. Seed may be broadcast or direct drilled under favourable conditions. Spring sowings are recommended, however, early autumn sowing is possible, as long as the chicory has established before going dormant in the cool season.

Chicory combines well with most grasses and clovers and can be added to a pasture mix at 0.5-2 kg/ha. Chicory stands are established at 4-6 kg/ha (Superstrike treated seed), with white and/or red clovers at 6-10 kg/ha.

Superstrike seed treatment is recommended to improve establishment.

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 flowering or damage to the crown in wet conditions, will affect production and persistence.

