



### Greg Boswell – Horsham Downs, Hamilton

Greg Boswell is into his first position as contract milker, milking 680 cows on a 225 hectare Hamilton farm that has for the last two years incorporated Puna II chicory as part of the rotational dairy grazing.

Greg says that after two years the Puna II is “still pumping” despite being grazed every 25 days. Regular sampling in the 100% Puna II paddocks has shown yields were 16,000 kg DM in the cultivar’s first season and 11-12,000 kg DM in the following drier season, out-stripping the pasture it replaced.

“We’re learning more about how to graze it,” says Greg. “We break-feed it like a crop, but not as heavily – we leave a bit there – and it comes back better. We break feed 2 hectares of the Puna II in three of four breaks and we’re hoping to increase the rotation to 15-20 days.”

The long tap root made it an ideal “nutrient puller” on the farm’s effluent blocks, says Greg, and it winters well.



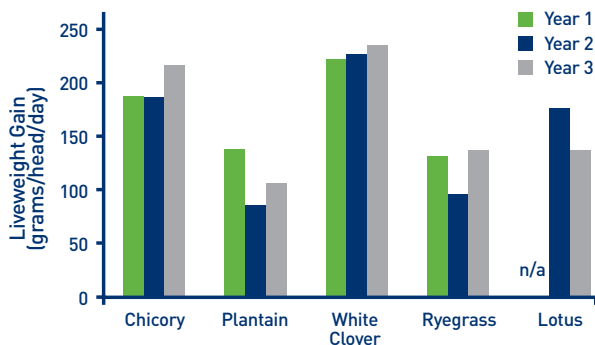
- High dry matter production
- A true perennial with good persistence
- Fast regrowth after grazing or cutting
- Semi-erect for better utilisation than Puna

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.

