



UNDERSTANDING TALL FESCUE

Tall fescue is a deep rooted, robust, productive perennial grass, that is more persistent than perennial ryegrass and can tolerate waterlogging, salinity, Grass Grub, heat and drought.

While slower to establish than perennial ryegrass, tall fescue is an excellent option where summer moisture stress may limit persistence or yield of perennial ryegrass, therefore it has proven popular in drought prone environments.

Managed correctly, tall fescue provides a highly digestible, high quality feed which combines well in a mix with white clover.

The addition of MaxP[®] endophyte (where available) can further improve the production and persistence of tall fescue pastures.

MAXP[®] TALL FESCUE ENDOPHYTE

Refer to Understanding MaxP[®] Tall Fescue Endophyte page 12 for further information.



- Excellent annual dry matter production
- New Zealand bred for local conditions
- Improved leaf softness compared to Quantum
- Improved disease resistance
- Improved digestibility (ME)
- Reduced aftermath heading

Heading Date

Early	Mid-Season	Late	Very Late
Quantum II			

The graph highlights the spring/summer activity of Quantum II compared to the autumn/winter activity of Resolute II.

Sowing and Establishment

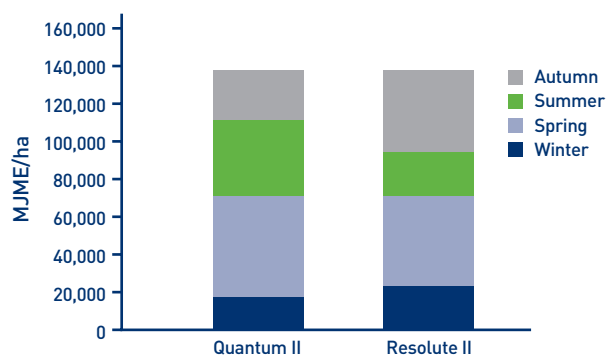
Tall fescues have relatively slow seedling growth compared with ryegrass so must not be sown in ryegrass mixtures. Sow in spring or early autumn at 22-32 kg/ha (SUPERSTRIKE[®] treated seed) with 3-5 kg/ha SUPERSTRIKE[®] white clover and with Grasslands Puna II chicory. Sow within the range of 5-15mm, certainly not deeper. Tall fescues perform best under good fertility and regular use of nitrogen.

Stock Suitability/Endophyte Options

Without Endophyte				
MaxP [®] Endophyte				

Pasture Quality

Annual and seasonal metabolisable energy per hectare (MJME/ha) of two tall fescues



Data collected from replicated grazing trial at Lincoln.

Grazing Management

Take care not to overgraze during establishment – short, sharp grazings are best. Do not allow tall fescue to become rank, as palatability declines markedly.

To maintain maximum quality and palatability, tall fescue pastures should be maintained below a height of 10-15cm.