

# Captain CS Plantain

Legumes & herb

Stock Type

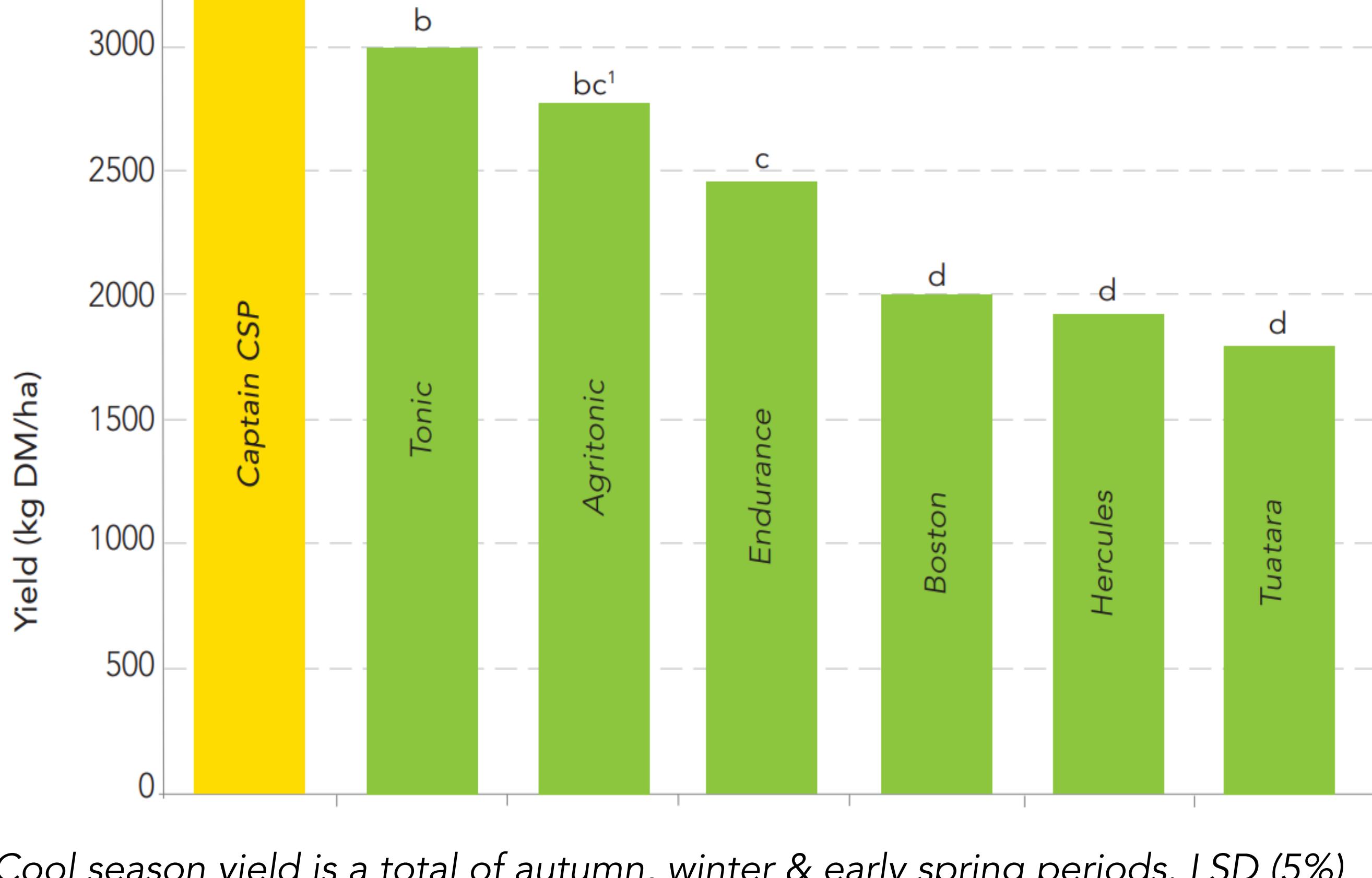
Dairy, Sheep, Beef, Deer

*Captain* cool season plantain (CSP) grows significantly more than other plantains during the cool season, when feed is most valuable in farm systems. It also reduces nitrogen leaching compared to diploid ryegrass.

## Outstanding cool season growth

*Captain CSP* yields significantly more during the cool season as shown in the graph below. Plantains vary hugely in winter growth, as is clearly visible in the photo below.

Cool season DM yield data combined from three one year dryland Canterbury trials sown between 2013 – 2018\*



\*Cool season yield is a total of autumn, winter & early spring periods. LSD (5%) lettering given on yield bars, cultivars with the same letter are not significantly different.<sup>1</sup> Provisional rating, cultivar has only been in one trial.

## High total DM yield

*Captain CSP* grows strongly across the other seasons too. It's deep rooting, with high summer yield providing additional protein and feed quality over the warmer months, particularly in summer dry areas.

## Reduced N leaching

Studies show plantain can mitigate nitrogen leaching compared to diploid ryegrass, primarily as its higher water content increases animal water intake, and so dilutes urine. *Captain*'s superior cool season growth potentially increases N-mitigation, as nitrogen mainly leaches when soils are wet in late autumn to early spring.



*Captain CSP* (centre) showing its significant cool season yield advantage over other cultivars on 30 July at Courtenay 190 m ASL.

## Plant type

*Captain CSP* is a distinctive narrow-leaved plant with upright growth habit for high utilisation. It has a deep, coarse root system, and good compatibility with other species. It persists well, and can last three years with good management.

## Sheep, beef, deer systems

*Captain CSP* can be used as a high LWG finishing crop, for example mixed with red, white, and annual clovers. Here the annual clovers (Persian, arrowleaf) provide most of the legume through the first year, with red and white clovers providing it after that.

## Animal performance

Plantain is easily digestible, improving animal appetite especially in dry summers when grass quality is low.

## Dairy systems

*Captain CSP* can be used as a summer crop, or sown as part of a pasture mix to increase summer feed quality in dryland situations. *Captain* can also be used as part of a specialist high-yielding, quality 2-3 year pasture, with *Shogun NEA12* hybrid ryegrass and *Kotuku* white clover.

# Sowing Captain

Sheep, Beef, Deer	kg/ha
Two-year high LWG finishing crop	
<i>Captain CS</i> plantain	10
Laser Persian clover	4
Morrow MS red clover	6
Ruru white clover	4
Total	24
Perennial pasture mix	
<i>Tyson</i> or <i>Rohan SPR</i> ryegrass	16-18
<i>Redefine</i> cocksfoot	3-6
Ruru white clover	4
Morrow MS red clover	4
<i>Captain CS</i> plantain	2-4
Total	29-36
Dairy	kg/ha
Perennial pasture mix	
<i>Maxsyn</i> , <i>Array</i> ryegrass	20
<i>Kotuku</i> white clover	2
Ruru white clover	2
<i>Captain CS</i> plantain	2-4
Total	22-28
Specialist 2-3 year pasture	
<i>Shogun NEA12</i> hybrid ryegrass	30
<i>Kotuku</i> white clover	4
<i>Captain CS</i> plantain	2-4
Total	36-38

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