



# Forge Hybrid Ryegrass

Pasture Grasses

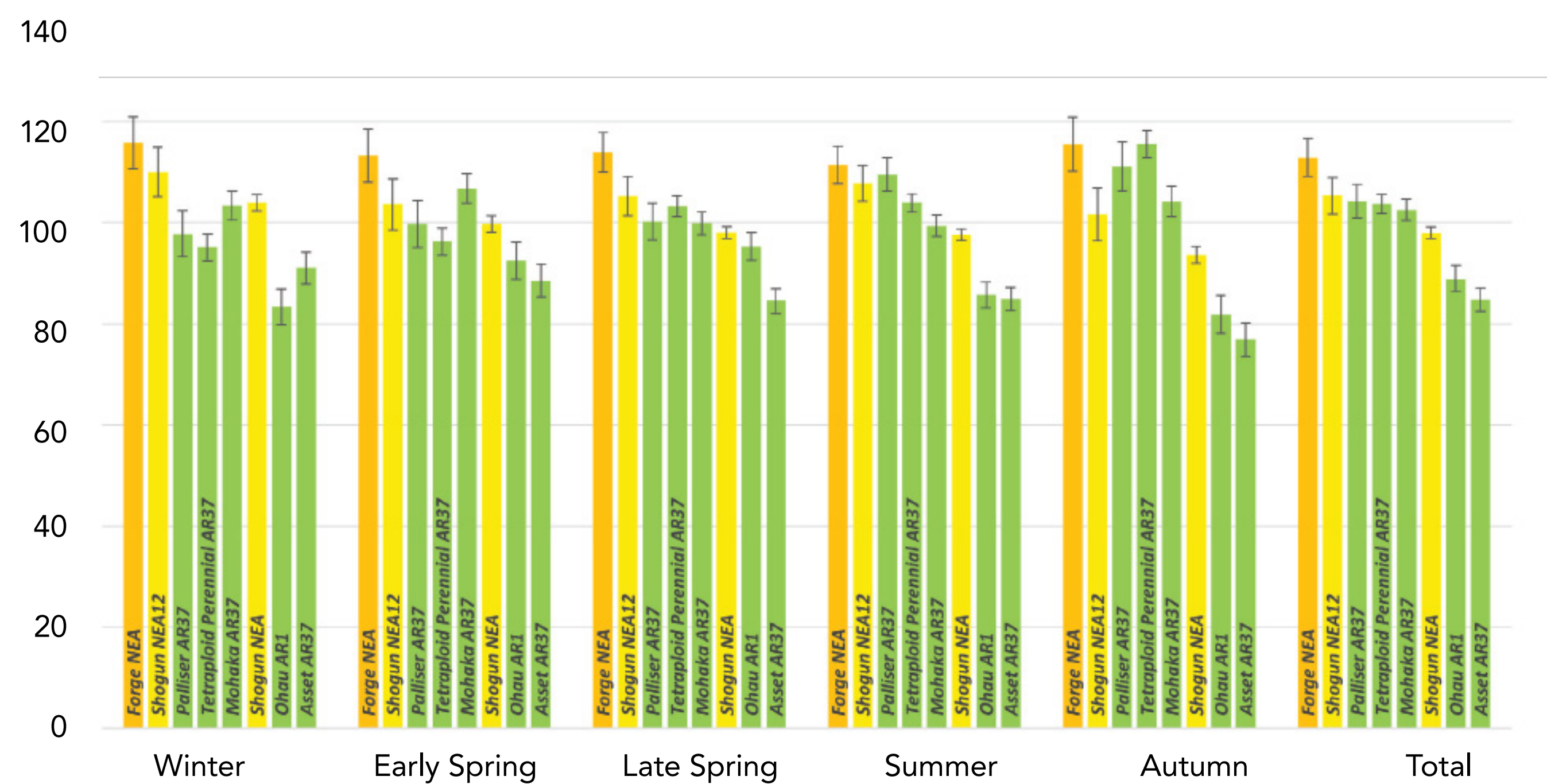
Endophyte	NEA, LE
Stock Type	Dairy, Sheep, Beef, Deer

Forge NEA is the phenomenal 3-5 year pasture bred to deliver animal performance your neighbours will envy, with environmental benefits too.

## Groundbreaking

Unbeaten in the National Forage Variety Trials (NFVT), Forge is a breakthrough in genetic gain. (Few new ryegrass cultivars ever exceed 5% yield improvement!) Even better, Forge gives this extra yield and quality across every season.

### 2025-26 NFVT hybrid ryegrass summary: All New Zealand Trials\*



\* NFVT Summary September 2025. If two means differ by more than the sum of their least significant intervals (LSI), they are significantly different at 5% level. NFVT Protocol cutting times may disadvantage yield of a perennial ryegrass within a hybrid ryegrass trial.

## Feed when you need it

Growth in winter and early spring is increasingly prized in our farm systems. It provides feed when it is often most needed, and most expensive.

Nothing else compares to Forge when the temperature drops. In winter it grows 5 - 41% more than other hybrid ryegrasses in the NFVT system; and 7 - 28% more in early spring.





## Tasty as

Animals love tetraploids – they are soft, high in sugars, legume-friendly, and easy to eat. *Forge* encourages higher intakes, optimal per head performance and improved efficiency.

## Lose less N & GHG

With higher animal intakes, and extra cool season growth, *Forge* helps lighten the farm footprint.

Tetraploids can be grazed at higher covers, so you grow more pasture for the same amount of nitrogen. *Forge's* extra winter yield also better mitigates nitrogen leaching during the high-risk cool season when soils are wet. Its palatability and high feed value lifts per animal performance, which lowers both greenhouse gas emissions and animal health costs.

## Extra 1.4t DM/ha

*Forge NEA* will grow about 1.4 t dry matter/ha a year more than a high performance perennial ryegrass. What could you do with this extra feed?

- Dairy farms: Add more home grown pasture to your winter milking or early calving system. More ME/ha year-round can increase MS production, too. Just as importantly, high quality and palatability lift efficiency through more milk/cow, rather than more cows. Alternately, use the extra feed to cut supplement costs.
- Sheep and beef: Feed ewes better through lactation, and finish more lambs off mum. Capitalise on the early schedules, and avoid the weaning check. *Forge's* high quality is also great for growing or finishing stock.
- Undersowing: Direct-drill into thin, sad pastures to lift both yield and feed quality. *Forge* establishes rapidly, with fast regrowth, so it's perfect for this.



# Endophyte & animal health

In most cases *Forge NEA* will deliver excellent animal health. We believe it is safe to use for dairy cows and cattle.

There is a risk of some ryegrass staggers in sheep or lambs if you graze into the base of the pasture in summer dry conditions. The risk of stagger is much lower than for the old *Standard* (or *High*) endophyte.

## Add red clover & stand clear

We've tested several combinations of *Forge* with *Morrow* red clover, as this will provide the best quality summer feed. Mixing 30 kg/ha *Forge* with 6 kg/ha *Morrow*, and 20kg *Forge* with 10 kg *Morrow*, work best, with the latter providing a bit less winter yield and more summer yield and quality.

## Breeding & persistence

*Forge* has 75% perennial: 25% Italian ryegrass parentage, so it fits between *Shogun* (50:50% parentage), and *4front* perennial ryegrass. *Forge's* persistence is very good for a tetraploid hybrid, thanks to high tiller density and a focus on persistence in its breeding.

## Sowing Forge

Dairy		kg/ha
High performance 3-5 year pasture	<i>Forge NEA</i> hybrid ryegrass	30
	<i>Kotuku</i> white clover	2
	<i>Ruru</i> white clover	2
	Total	34
Sheep, Beef, Deer		kg/ha
High performance finishing pasture	<i>Forge NEA</i> hybrid ryegrass	25-30
	<i>Morrow MS</i> red clover	6
	<i>Ruru</i> medium leaved white clover	2
	Total	33-38
Undersowing		kg/ha
Sow into thin pasture to extend performance	<i>Forge NEA</i> hybrid ryegrass	13-20*
	Total	13-20

\*Sowing rate depends on how thin pasture to be undersown is. Tetraploids are sown at a higher rate than diploids, because of their larger seed.

Other species can be added as needed e.g. *Captain CS* plantain.

*Forge* hybrid ryegrass is owned & marketed by Barenbrug, & protected under the NZ Plant Variety Rights Act