

Fodder beet sowing checklist

Winter crops

Sow

Growing a good crop is complex. Every step in the process must be done well. This checklist will help you sow and establish fodder beet.

Tick off these steps for great results.

Checklist	✓
Select paddocks per industry best practice guidelines for winter grazing, see paddock selection.	
Check herbicides applied over previous 2 years. Certain chemical residues affect fodder beet.	
Soil test to 150 mm depth 6-12 months prior to sowing. Target pH 6.0-6.3. Lime must be applied at least 6 months in advance, see soil fertility.	
For a ‘stale’ seedbed, spray out paddock 4-6 weeks before sowing, see establishment techniques	
Cultivate to create a firm, even seedbed.	
Apply fertiliser based on the soil test results prior to sowing and incorporate.	
Sow fodder beet in spring when soil temperatures are consistently >10°C and rising, ensuring adequate soil moisture is available.	
Sow seed at 15-20 mm depth using a precision planter, at desired sowing rate, see establishment techniques.	
Sow at a low speed for good seed placement.	
Roll paddock immediately after sowing to increase effectiveness of pre-emergence herbicide and maximise soil-seed contact.	
Apply pre-emergence herbicide. An insecticide can be incorporated with this. Seek advice on spray programme, see establishment techniques.	
Apply post-emergence herbicide programme. Timing is everything! Apply when fodder beet seedlings and weeds are at the correct size.	
Apply post-emergence fertiliser prior to canopy closure.	
Rogue out any bolters before they drop seed.	