



Mixing tetraploid & diploid ryegrass

Pasture

Grow & Utilise

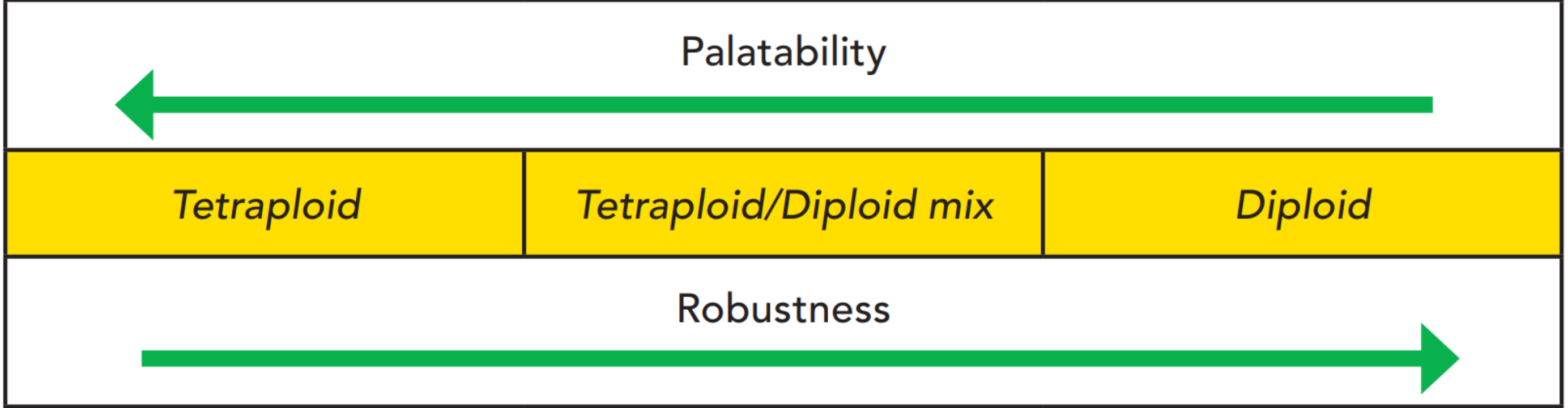
Mixing a tetraploid like *4front* with a diploid perennial ryegrass like *Maxsyn* or *Array* has proved a practical way for many farmers to drive higher animal performance than traditional pasture, with easier management.

Background

Tetraploid/diploid mixes fit a range of farm systems. They are more persistent than a straight tetraploid pasture, because diploid plants help protect the tetraploid.

On many farms the tetraploid/diploid perennial ryegrass mix is now the norm, striking a near-ideal balance between pasture palatability and robustness, growing more energy per ha and being easier to manage than straight diploid ryegrass.

Tetraploid perennial ryegrass, like *4front*, has excellent DM yield and year-round growth. But being so palatable, many farmers have struggled to avoid over grazing and achieve the persistence they want. Adding a denser diploid ryegrass to the mix changes the dynamics.



The tetraploid/diploid mix is an average of the two types, denser and more robust than a straight tetraploid, and more palatable than a straight diploid.

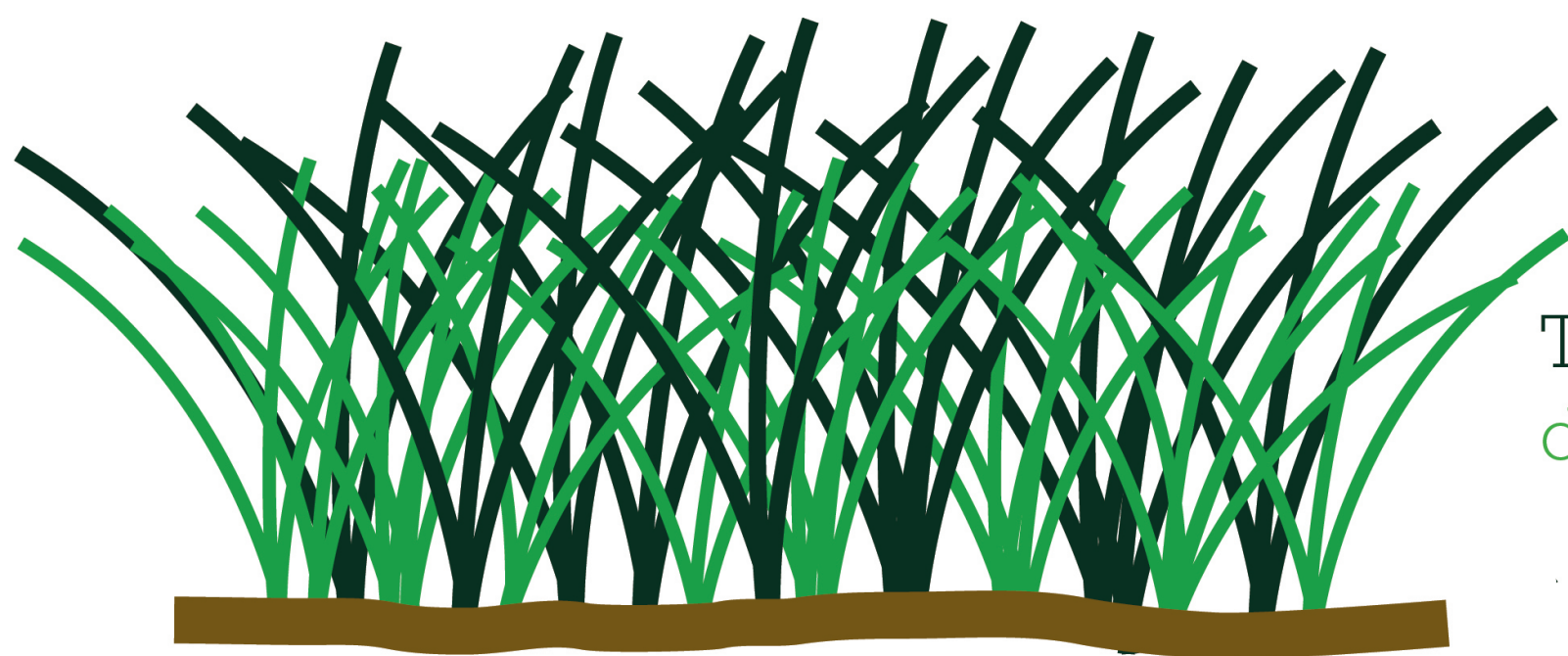
Palatability & stem

4front's soft stems improve palatability and animal

performance. They also hold their quality even at high covers (e.g. 3500-3600 kg DM/ha), so they're easy to graze.

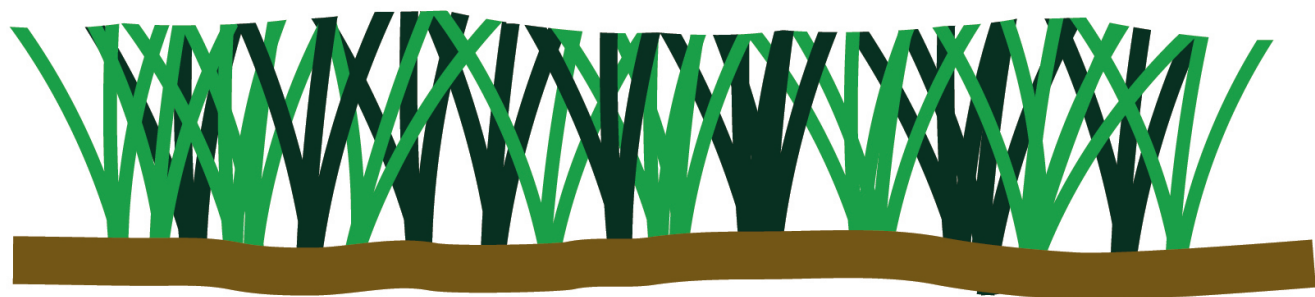
Diploid the protector

Straight tetraploid pastures are often overgrazed, reducing persistence, but in a mix they are protected by the denser, less palatable, diploid plants.



Pre-grazing

Tetraploid plants (dark green) & diploid (light green) are mixed up.



Post-grazing

Tougher diploid stems help protect tetraploid plants from over-grazing.

Sowing rate

We have tested different tetraploid/diploid perennial ryegrass mixes. Our recommendation? Sow half the normal rate of each cultivar, e.g. 15 kg/ha of tetraploid *4front* (half of 30 kg/ha) plus 10 kg/ha of a diploid like *Maxsyn* or *Array* (half of 20 kg/ha).

Better pasture together™

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