



Storing seed with endophyte

Seed information

Sow

Endophyte levels in ryegrass seed drop off over time. On-farm, store seed with novel endophytes in a cool, dry place. Sow seed within one month of purchase.

Endophyte in seed

Seed is a living organism and should always be stored in cool, dry conditions. This is very important for endophyte as its levels in ryegrass seed drop over time more quickly than seed germination levels. This speed of decline in endophyte is influenced by humidity, temperature and endophyte strain.

On-farm storage

More planning for seed purchase is now required when dealing with novel endophytes such as *NEA*, *NEA2*, *NEA4*, *NEA12* and *AR37*. Ideally seed should arrive on farm within 2-3 of weeks of sowing, and should be sown within one month.

Store seed on-farm in a cool, dry place until sowing. Don't carry seed containing novel endophyte over between seasons on-farm as it is likely to be lost. Only order as much seed as is needed in the current season.

Just-in-time inventory

Barenbrug has set up cool store seed distribution at Rolleston and Hamilton to provide a just-in-time inventory. Seed is kept in low temperature and low relative humidity storage as long as possible, and delivered within 3 days of ordering.

Storage between seasons

Not all seed can be sold in the year it is harvested, due to the limited time between harvest (particularly of late heading cultivars) and farmer pasture sowing requirements.

Endophyte levels are safely maintained between seasons in our low humidity, low temperature storage. All seed with *NEA*, *NEA2*, *NEA4*, *NEA12* or *AR37* endophyte carried over is placed in cool storage after cleaning, and endophyte levels are retested prior to sale to ensure they meet the required standard.



Seed at Barenbrug's Rolleston distribution plant stored at low relative humidity and temperature to safely maintain endophyte levels.

Better pasture together™

 **BARENBRUG**