

The high price of establishment failure

Seed treatment

Seed Treatment

Seed treatment is one of many steps in the process that determines whether new crops and pasture flourish, or flounder. Use it to optimise establishment, make sure valuable feed is available when it's needed, and cut the risk of failure.

Introduction

Resowing a failed pasture or crop is frustrating, time-consuming and expensive. But these examples show two-thirds of the total cost of failure is not the seed and tractor time of resowing, but the lost dry matter production, i.e. budgeted feed that now must be replaced.

The total cost of establishment failure may be \$4050/ha or more. A well implemented sowing programme – including seed treatment – mitigates this risk.

Example: Cost of pasture failure

What happens	Autumn sown pasture fails to establish.
Cost of lost DM	Loss of 5 t DM/ha production (April – September; supplements required to fill feed deficits) = \$2500/ha*
Cost of resowing spring	= \$1550/ha (to respray, lightly cultivate, purchase seed, resow, control slugs, spray weeds.
Total cost of failure	= \$4050/ha

**Pasture has a high feed value during the feed deficit period, DM valued typically at 40-50 c/kg DM.*



Insect damage on establishing pasture - bare seed (left) vs treated seed.

Example: Cost of brassica crop failure

What happens	Spring sown swede crop fails to establish. Resow into rape in summer.
Cost of lost DM	Loss of 6 t DM/ha in winter crop yield (using rape instead of swedes) = \$3000/ha*
Cost of resowing into rape	= \$1300/ha (to respray, lightly cultivate, purchase seed, resow, control slugs, spray weeds, apply insecticide, apply fertiliser.)
Total cost of failure	= \$4300/ha

**Pasture has a high feed value during this feed deficit period, DM valued typically at 50 c/kg DM.*

Better pasture together™

 **BARENBRUG**