

Italian ryegrass

Cultivars list

Products

Italian and annual ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*) are discussed together here as they are often used for the same purpose. Most commonly they are sown as a high quality short-term winter crop, to provide multiple grazings in winter and spring.

Annual ryegrass is usually used for a 6-8 month winter crop before sowing summer crop.

Italian ryegrass is more persistent than annual ryegrass and can be sown for a 2-3 year pasture in summer mild areas (e.g.

Southland) or under irrigation. In summer dry areas it generally lasts 12-18 months. Italian ryegrass is also widely used for undersowing into run out pasture to boost winter and early spring performance. Fast establishment makes it ideal for this role.

However, on farms in the upper North Island where black beetle is an issue, undersow ryegrass with endophyte instead (e.g. *Shogun NEA12* or *Forge NEA*) as black beetle can proliferate on ryegrass without endophyte.

We do not recommend adding Italian or annual ryegrass to your permanent pasture seed mix. They establish rapidly, to the detriment of baby perennial ryegrass and clover. Italian and annual ryegrasses then die out, allowing weeds to invade.

More persistent	Perennial ryegrass
↑	Hybrid ryegrass
↓	Italian ryegrass
Less persistent	Annual ryegrass

Barenbrug Italian cultivar

Tabu+

The record-breaker, with explosive establishment speed and superior cool season growth, plus stock love it. *Tabu+* is unbeaten in the NFVT Italian ryegrass summary for winter yield.

Other italian cultivars

Appeal

Very late heading (+28 days), high yielding, fast establishing ryegrass.

Feast II (T)

Tetraploid with good establishment and excellent summer quality, ideal for high quality silage. Only available *Without* endophyte.

RGT Indulgence

Diploid with fine, dense tillers (+20 days).

Grasslands Asset

Diploid with +14 days heading date, selected for growth into the second year. Available with *AR37* or *Without* endophyte.

Grasslands Manta

High yielding diploid with strong winter growth and lower aftermath heading compared to typical Italian ryegrasses. Available with *AR37* or *AR1* endophyte.

Grasslands Moata (T)

Tetraploid released in 1981, with limited persistence. Superseded in cool season growth and total DM yield by many other cultivars.

Lush (T)

Tetraploid with fast establishment and reduced aftermath heading. Available with *AR37* endophyte or *LE* endophyte.

Supercruise

Fast establishing diploid providing excellent short term feed in challenging environments (+16 days).

Vibe

Diploid selected for improved persistence. Suitable for a straight sward or undersowing into run out pasture. Very late heading (+27 days).