



### Scientific Name

*Festulolium braunii*

**AberNiche®**  
FESTULOLIUM

## PRODUCT INFORMATION

AberNiche is an interspecies cross (Italian-type ryegrass x meadow fescue) ie a hybrid grass, adapted to a variety of stress conditions, particularly drought.

### Key Features

- Significantly improved water use efficiency proven in simulated drought trials
- Can be combined in short term mixes with Italian or hybrid ryegrass
- For longer term mixes include cocksfoot alongside perennial or hybrid ryegrasses, plus white clover

### Plant Characteristics

- Densely tillered and well suited to bulk hay or silage
- Rapid establishment
- Winter hardy
- Dense, deep root system to help in dry seasons

### Maturity

A late maturing variety designed to produce DM later into the season.

Days to flowering relative to Nui (0) = +16

### Where can I grow it?

- Medium to high rainfall zones
- Suitable for irrigation or dryland but not hot, dry climates
- Cold and frost tolerant

### Sowing

Sow at 20-25kg/ha alone or 10-15kg/ha when a component of a pasture mix. Preferable to sow in warmer soil conditions such as early autumn. Can also provide a spring sowing option to produce summer feed under irrigation or with good rainfall.

# PRODUCT INFORMATION



## Features, Advantages and Benefits

**AberNiche** heralds the beginning of a range of new grass better adapted to various stress conditions which may become more common as a result of climate change. Festulolium combines the abundant yield, or quality trait, of Italian ryegrass with the persistence and deeper root system of meadow fescue.

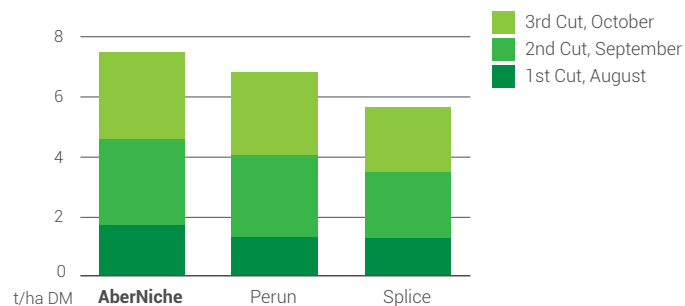
**AberNiche** is very productive and persistent when grown by itself but it can be combined in short term mixes with Italian or hybrid ryegrasses. For a longer term grass-based mix consider including perennial or hybrid ryegrasses, plus white, red and sub clover.

**AberNiche** gives farmers a pasture option which is adapted to a wider range of soils and rainfall zones than straight Italian ryegrass. AberNiche also provides quality feed and persists longer into summer at the time that feed quality usually falls away.

According to Dr Mike Humphreys of IBERS at Aberystwyth University in Wales, **AberNiche** shows that the transfer of more stress resistant fescue genes into ryegrasses can be achieved without negatively affecting the yield or quality characteristics of the grass. It should, he says, herald a new generation of hybrids offering some major benefits for the future.

"Increased drought tolerance is a major objective and we have already recorded an improvement in water use efficiency (forage yield/unit of water consumed) in some Festulolium of 88%," he says.

Festulolium, Replicated Dry Matter Trial



Tooma Research Farm, NSW, 2016

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