



**Scientific Name**

*Lolium multiflorum*



## PRODUCT INFORMATION

Fantastic is a dynamic, annual diploid ryegrass specifically bred for early winter feed and is ideal to oversow rundown pastures.

**Key Features**

- Very fast to first grazing
- Produces excellent quality silage and hay
- Very high winter growth rate
- Outstanding DM yields

**Plant Characteristics**

- Densely tillered diploid
- Characterised by fine leaves

**Maturity**

Early flowering date designed specifically for early winter feed.  
Days to flowering relative to Nui (0) = -6

**Where can I grow it?**

- Medium to high rainfall zones
- Suitable for irrigation

**Seed Size**

500,000-600,000 seeds per kg

(Source: *Pasture varieties used in NSW 2006-2007*, Bev Zurbo, 2006)

**Soil Type**

Fantastic is best suited to well-drained loam soil types but adapts to a wide range of fertility levels and soil profiles. Diploid annuals will cope with some water-logging providing the growing tip is above water. To maximise stand productivity, soil testing is advisable. Analyse soil and neutralise deficiencies with fertiliser and/or lime.

**Fertility**

Good base rates of phosphorus are necessary for maximum DM production especially during establishment phase. DM production is directly related to nitrogen availability. Consult your Upper Murray Seeds agronomist or fertiliser advisor for nitrogen application rates.

**Sowing**

Diploid ryegrass has a relatively small seed compared to tetraploid ryegrass and may be sown at a lighter rate. Sow at 20-25kg/ha alone or 5-15kg/ha as part of a mix. Sow into bared ground if direct drilling. Lightly harrow and roll to improve germination. Suitable for oversowing into an established stand. Pasture productivity is directly related to successful plant establishment.

# PRODUCT INFORMATION



## Disease and Pest Management

During emergence it is essential to monitor regularly for damage from insects such as RLEM and lucerne flea, and spray as required. Inspect during early stand life for populations of black-headed cockchafer and slugs. Contact your Upper Murray Seeds agronomist for spray application rates.

## Weed Control

Fantastic seedlings germinate quickly and are very competitive once established. Always use a knockdown herbicide to ensure you are sowing into a clean seedbed. Monitor for post-emergent weeds and spray as required. Use options such as spray-grazing for broadleaf weeds.

## Grazing

Do not graze Fantastic until the plant is well anchored and root depth is established. Carry out a quick in-paddock 'grab test' by hand to ensure stock cannot pull plants out of the ground. Fantastic should be rotationally grazed to maintain 2-3 leaves per tiller. If the stand is allowed to grow beyond the three-leaf stage, it may run to head earlier and there will be a proportional reduction in quality and productivity.

*"In April, we sowed 6ha down to Fantastic along with 30kg/ha of starter fertiliser. 60 cows and calves grazed the paddock twice over winter and it was locked up for hay in late September.*

*We were very impressed with the quality and yield Fantastic gave us. We applied 160kg of MF pasture booster and it yielded 5500-6000kg DM/ha in hay and the leaf-to-stem ratio was excellent – much better than previous varieties we'd tried. The Fantastic pasture bulked up incredibly well after spring rains, it was so thick the mower struggled to cut it!*

*It was also amazing to see how much regrowth we got after we cut it for hay, we hadn't seen anything like this before."*

Ian & Judy Marshman  
Limestone, Yea, VIC

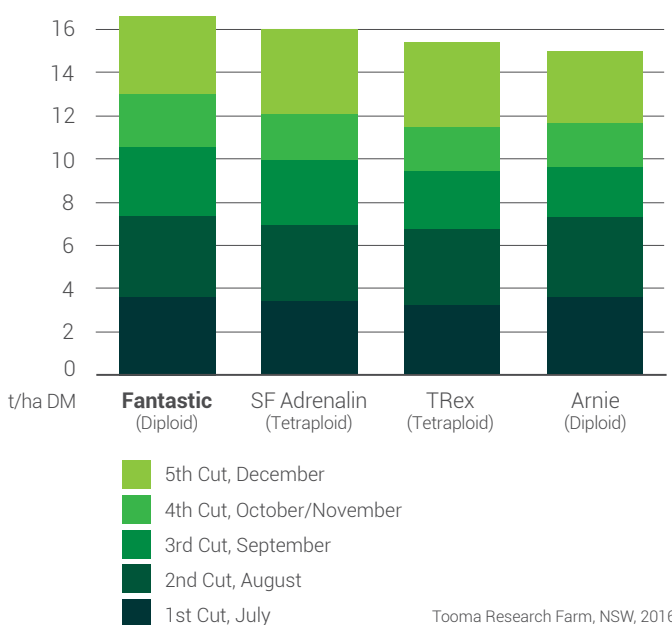
## Feed Quality

Annual diploids maintain grazing quality late into the season. Fantastic ryegrass is ideal for high quality hay production. Its prolific regrowth capacity means it is possible to cut both silage and hay in the one good season.

## Animal Health

To optimise livestock weight gain and health, ensure livestock are vaccinated and drenched. To prevent nutritional problems make gradual diet changes when introducing hungry stock to lush pastures. Consult your Upper Murray Seeds agronomist for more information.

### Annual Ryegrass, Replicated Dry Matter Trial



## 2 | Fantastic Annual Ryegrass

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DISCLAIMER: All information provided is intended as a guide only. Upper Murray Seeds has taken all due care to ensure the included information is accurate and use of this information is at the user's sole discretion and risk. Varying environmental conditions may alter the performance of products and plants. The sowing rates provided are a guide only. You should refer to your agronomist or advisor for sowing rates suited to your particular situation.

