

Post Drill Pasture Care Guide

We realise that there is a lot more involved in establishing a successful pasture than simply purchasing top quality seed and introducing into in to the paddock. With that in mind we have prepared the following post drill pasture care tips to help insure that your investment in the new pasture seeds technology is more successful.

Your new pasture.

Your new pasture establishes better if grazed more often. More frequently grazing will keep your new pastures leafy. Leafy pasture has a high M/E value, typically 11-12 compared to dead leaf at 7-8 M/E. Young clover plants are slower to establish than ryegrass therefore are more susceptible to shading from ryegrass. More frequent grazing helps to encourage better clover establishment.

Clover will not start producing nitrogen for 9-12 months after drilling therefore apply small amounts of nitrogen more often i.e. 25 kgs / N / ha. The nitrogen application should occur soon after the first grazing. Grazing young pasture more often will also force the ryegrass to produce more tiller numbers.

Pest Control.

All newly sown pasture can be very susceptible to attack from damaging pests such as Red Legged Earthmite (RLEM)

These pests must be controlled immediately upon detection or they can totally suppress and even kill your newly established seedlings, in particularly Clovers, Lucerne and Brassicas. We recommend that you monitor your new pasture at least every week for the first six weeks and if pests are found or damage is evident contact your local advisor to seek suitable treatments.

Pests can also attack your pasture at other times of the year as well (Spring / Summer) so always be watchful for signs of damage or greatly reduced pasture growth.

Specialty Seeds Australia is supportive of the IPM initiatives being used for pest control (Integrated Pest Management). Where feasibly possibly the IPM program encourages 'natural' methods of pest control.

The use of 'Best TM21' Soil stimulant can help in this program by improving the soil health to allow beneficial predators to flourish.

Avoid.

Under grazing or making hay and silage from your pasture will lead to more "dead matter" in the base of it and will shade out the young slower establishing clover plants, and can lead to increased disease pressure in it.

During periods of dry conditions extra care should be taken with new pastures.

Weed Control.

Weed control is best 3 – 7 days after the first light grazing.

Weeds are best controlled early between the cotyledon and 3 – 4 leaf stage. White and red clover should have reached the first trifoliated leaf stage, grasses have at least 3 leaves and there is at least 70% total ground cover.

We recommend the use of "clover friendly" chemicals and suggest that you contact a professional Agronomist for the best Chemical advice.

For more information on this post drilling pasture weed control guide please contact:



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