



# DoubleTake

## Management for Autumn Planting and Multi-Grazing



**DoubleTake** is an autumn/winter/spring planted **multi-grazing/silage** triticale (a wheat-ryecorn cross) bred by Crop and Food Research, to provide increased autumn, winter and spring production, flexibility and reliability.

Typical Uses	
<b>Multi-grazing, then to spring whole crop:</b>	Plant in autumn* (1 <sup>st</sup> half of March, Canterbury), graze 1-2 times in winter, close in late winter/early spring for whole-crop silage harvest December/January.
<b>Multi-grazing only:</b>	Plant in autumn* (1 <sup>st</sup> half of March, Canterbury), graze 4-5 times over winter to early summer.
<b>Whole-crop only:</b>	Plant winter/early spring (May-August), zero grazing, and harvest whole crop silage in early summer (December-January).

\*(bring autumn planting date forward by up to two weeks in cooler areas)

Recent trials at Winchmore, sown mid March, recorded heifer liveweight gains with **DoubleTake** 12% ahead of Tama and 37% ahead of ryecorn. **DoubleTake** has good levels of protein for pre-lambing grazing.

Multi-grazing keeps forage quality at a high level by increasing plant tillering, resulting in higher leaf to stem ratios and reduces stock damage and wastage. Early autumn planting (late February/early March) will produce considerably more grazing than late autumn planting, especially in cooler, harsher areas.

### Establishment

**Free-draining soils are ideal for multi-grazing during winter.** Wet heavy soils will create pugging and reduce potential regrowth performance.

The target is to achieve 2500-3000 kg DM/ha of high quality pasture-like forage 60-70 days after March sowing, repeating this in most conditions again in late winter/early spring, before choosing to either continue spring grazing, close for whole-crop cereal silage or cultivate and establish another crop.

As always, performance will reflect sowing date, establishment, soil temperature, fertility and moisture with **DoubleTake** responding well to nitrogen fertiliser and irrigation.

### Sowing

**Sowing date has a very big influence on dry matter production.** **DoubleTake** is best sown in very early March in Mid-Canterbury, but can be sown at anytime in the autumn or winter. Later sowings produce less dry matter/grazing. (Bring autumn planting dates forward by up to two weeks in cooler areas).

Sowing rate should be 140 to 150 kg/ha, highest with large seed size and/or later sowings. Sowing depth should be 3-4 cm. Seed does not require fungal or insecticide treatment for autumn/early winter sowing.

Ideally, 200-250 plants/m<sup>2</sup> should be established. **DoubleTake** tillers well and is initially quite flat.

### Fertiliser

Apply 150-200 kg/ha of Cropmaster 15 or equivalent at sowing as a base maintenance fertiliser to achieve increased early DM production and better winter hardiness in most situations.

Additional nitrogen, up to 45-90 kgN/ha (100-200 kg urea/ha), should be broadcast either pre-sowing or very soon after emergence in any of the following situations:

- Low fertility conditions, e.g. run-out pasture or recently cultivated pastures with high turf breakdown.
- Heavily cropped light to medium soils or when direct drilling or low plant populations.

A vigorously establishing crop should smother out any weeds.

**Apply all nitrogen fertiliser one month before anticipated grazing to minimise nitrate poisoning risk.**



## Multi-Grazing

If sown into unusually warm autumn conditions, crops should be grazed early (at 20-25 cm down to 10 cm).

**1st grazing (May), 60-70 days after sowing. From 30 cm (3000 kg) to 10 cm (1000 kg) residual.**

**DoubleTake** initially has a very flat growth habit, rising in height as tiller numbers increase. Tiller activity is greater than forage oats, giving increased winter growth and regrowth through new tiller production, allowing greater grazing management flexibility and survival under snow or very wet conditions.

Multi-grazing keeps forage quality at a high level by increasing plant tillering, resulting in higher leaf-to-stem ratios and reducing stock damage and wastage. Back fencing encourages tillering and more vigorous regrowth. Harder grazing will lower regrowth speed and production.

**2nd grazing (late July), 70-80 days after 1<sup>st</sup> grazing - from 25-30 cm down to 10 cm residual.**

**DoubleTake** should ideally be regrazed in late winter. Then the crop can either:

1. be regularly regrazed during the spring until the crop runs out,
2. be shut for silage production and harvested in early summer (with appropriate grain production management), or
3. be sprayed out and cultivated for other crop establishment.

**Harder grazing will lower regrowth speed and production and require higher management skills and inputs.**

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