



# Grower's Guide



## Sowing Rates

Due to differing grain size, forage cereal options have different sowing rates. Both seed size and time of sowing will influence this rate.

Some guidelines:

Autumn sown **DoubleTake** – 150 kg/ha

Winter sown **DoubleTake** – 150-160 kg/ha

Spring sown triticale (**DoubleTake**, **Rocket**, **Crackerjack**) – 175-185 kg/ha

Autumn sown oats – 100 kg/ha

Spring sown oats – 120 kg/ha

Spring sown barley – 150-160 kg/ha

Cereal development is driven primarily by day length. Later sown crops should be sown at heavier rates due to the plants spending less time in their tillering phase. These sowing rates are a guide only – please seek further advice from Agricom or your local seed merchant.

## Fertiliser

A soil test is recommended before commencing a cropping programme. The following assumes key nutrients (P:K:S) are adequate.

The use of a compound fertiliser at sowing, or broadcast and incorporated pre-sowing is recommended. Target supplying 50 kg N/ha within this mix. Cereal crops have a high requirement for nitrogen and potassium. A 15 t DM/ha crop requires 200-225 kg/ha of both N & K. In regularly cropped or low fertility situations, much of this will be required from the bag. Direct-drilled crops usually require more N earlier than cultivated crops.

The target is to provide just enough N in the tillering stage of plant development, then maximise N supply for the upper half of plant development and grain filling. Crops that run out of available N will mature earlier, having lower yield and quality as well as being more prone to plant disease.

## **Spring Options – Triticale**

A suggested fertiliser approach for spring sown triticale may be:

- An N:P:K fertiliser at sowing supplying 50 kg N/ha
- 75-100 kg N/ha at growth stage 30 (red band height)
- Final 50 kg N/ha at ear emergence (growth stage 51) to aid successful grain fill and plant health.

## **Spring Sown Barley – A Suggested Approach**

- 150-200 kg/ha compound fertiliser plus enough N to provide 75-100 kg N/ha at sowing.
- Final 50-75 kg N/ha at GS 31 to carry the crop to harvest.



### **Autumn Sown Options**

Oats for green chop silage or winter grazing:

- Provide 50 kg N/ha at sowing by way of compound fertiliser
- A further 50 kg N/ha 5-6 weeks post sowing

Note – N should be applied at least one month before grazing commences to minimise the risk of nitrate issues.

### **Herbicides**

Options for cereal crops are many and varied. Well established autumn sown crops often out-compete weeds. Spring sown crops will almost always require herbicide applications. MCPA is commonly used, however seeking technical advice is recommended so weeds are targeted with the appropriate herbicide.

### **Fungicides**

While most forage cereals have much improved disease tolerance, fungicides are often used to reduce disease in the upper leaves and ear of the plant. This enables the plant to stay greener for longer, therefore being more effective through the grain filling phase. Bigger cleaner grains develop which contribute significantly to improved ME.

### **Product type:**

Triazoles – eg Opus/Folicur –14 days search and destroy, 21 days forward cover.

Strobilurins – eg Twist/Amistar – 0 days search and destroy, 35 days forward cover (plus green leaf retention benefits if adequate water and Nitrogen available).

### **An Example:**

Low risk season/environment:

At flag leaf stage (GS37-39) –500-750 ml/ha Twist +350 ml Opus.

Medium risk season/environment:

500 ml/ha Twist+250 ml/ha Opus at row closures (GS 30).

Repeat application again at flag leaf stage (GS39) at same rates

Note: Observe withholding periods and seek further advice on a case by case situation.

A growth stage chart may be found on the forage cereal page of the Agricom website, [www.agricom.co.nz](http://www.agricom.co.nz)

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