

Agrinote



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Characteristics

Provider forage peas are used in blends with forage cereal seed to increase the protein and energy concentration of silage, and often boosts overall yield. Most forage peas grow to a short height and have a low forage yield, so are not suited to growing with cereals. *Provider* peas are tall, high-yielding pea, with strong inter-locking tendrils that enable them to climb up with the cereal as it grows.

Provider forage peas can be purchased in pre-blended mixes with *Milton* oats or *Crackerjack* triticale. Adding *Provider* forage peas to triticale or oat silage will increase protein, carbohydrate and digestibility levels.

Key Features

- ✓ Best peas for mixing with cereals for silage
- ✓ High yields
- ✓ High protein, energy and digestibility
- ✓ Suited to silage and hay
- ✓ Excellent standing and climbing ability



Trial Data

Table 1 - Forage Pea Trial Yields (t DM/ha) at West Melton, Canterbury

Cultivar	Pea Type	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
<i>Provider</i>	Maple	12.35	8.37	8.57
Magnus	Maple	10.10	6.37	-
Birte	White	6.58	5.20	7.47
Sown		14 Sep	7 Oct	14 Oct
Harvested		21 Dec	22 Dec	28 Dec
Trial Mean		10.40	6.53	7.55
Significance		*	**	**

* = Significant at 1%

** = Significant at 5%

Table 2 – Year 3 Nutritional Analyses at West Melton, Canterbury.

Cultivar	Pea Type	Organic Matter (%)	Crude Protein (%)	Dry Matter Digestibility (%)	MJ ME/kg DM
<i>Provider</i>	Maple	95.0	14.7	83.2	12.1
Birte	Maple	93.9	16.9	79.6	11.6

Sowing Rates

When *Provider* forage peas are blended with a cereal it should be planted at 200 kg/ha. Pure *Provider* crops should be planted at 250 kg/ha and sown in early-spring.

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Fertiliser

Drill the pea crop with a nitrogen (N) based fertiliser (e.g. 200 kg/ha Crop20). Further nitrogen applications are not normally applied, even for pea/cereal blends*.

Weed Control

Weed management is different in cereal/pea blends, because common cereal herbicides will affect peas. Tropotox Plus and Pulsar are registered herbicides for both peas and cereals. Timing of application is critical; make sure the peas have not grown past the seven node stage. Always follow directions on the label.

Harvesting

When harvesting pure crops of *Provider* forage pea, quality is maximised at the flat-pod stage, and yield at the full-pod stage.

The 2006-2007 season was the first year of large scale use of pea/cereal blends. In many triticale/pea crops, the peas were over-mature when the triticale was at the cheesy-dough stage. This may have been a seasonal effect, and was more common in the North Island. As a result, in 2007-2008 several growers have preferred to use the *Milton*/pea blend because the peas are less likely to be over-mature at the ideal stage to harvest the oats.

Experience in Canterbury has been that in 2 of 3 years of use, the peas have not been over-mature at harvest. The 2006-2007 season was cooler with less sunshine, and this may have contributed to the difference in maturity between triticale and peas. As a result it is still recommended that the triticale/*Provider* blend is used in the South Island, where maturity should be aligned in most years.

If the cereal and peas are not both at the correct stage, the best harvest date will be that which suits the species that will contribute most to yield (e.g. if the cereal is 70% of the yield, cut at the cheesy-dough or boot stage of the cereal).

*Detailed guides on growing triticale can be found on the Agricom website www.agricom.co.nz, or by contacting Agricom at the address below.