

Tall Fescue Endophyte MaxP®



MaxP® is a novel endophyte for tall fescue, developed by AgResearch Grasslands. As with **AR1** in ryegrass, **MaxP®** is a selected fungus that lives inside the seed and plant tissue of infected plants. It is available in the Agricom tall fescue cultivar **Advance**.

What are the Benefits of MaxP®?

MaxP® gives tall fescue plants protection from a range of insects that ordinary tall fescues are susceptible to, including Argentine stem weevil (ASW), black beetle, pasture mealy bug and root aphid (Figure 2). This insect protection results in substantial improvements in pasture production (+20% to 90%) and persistence. **MaxP®** also improves the plant's tolerance of drought and heat, and may improve the extraction of phosphate from the soil.

Is MaxP® Safe for Animals?

Extensive sheep trials on **MaxP®** have been conducted and no negative effects on animal health were identified. **MaxP®** has also been used on a number of sheep and beef properties with no negative impacts on the health of sheep and beef reported.

Who Should Use MaxP®?

Most farmers sowing tall fescue should use cultivars with **MaxP®**. This is especially true in the North Island where pressure from ASW and black beetle is more severe, and often causes ordinary tall fescue to fail after 2-3 years. The use of **MaxP®** will increase production for farmers, and improve the reliability of persistence.

Figure 1. Tall Fescue Trial Plots, Three Years After Planting – Kerikeri

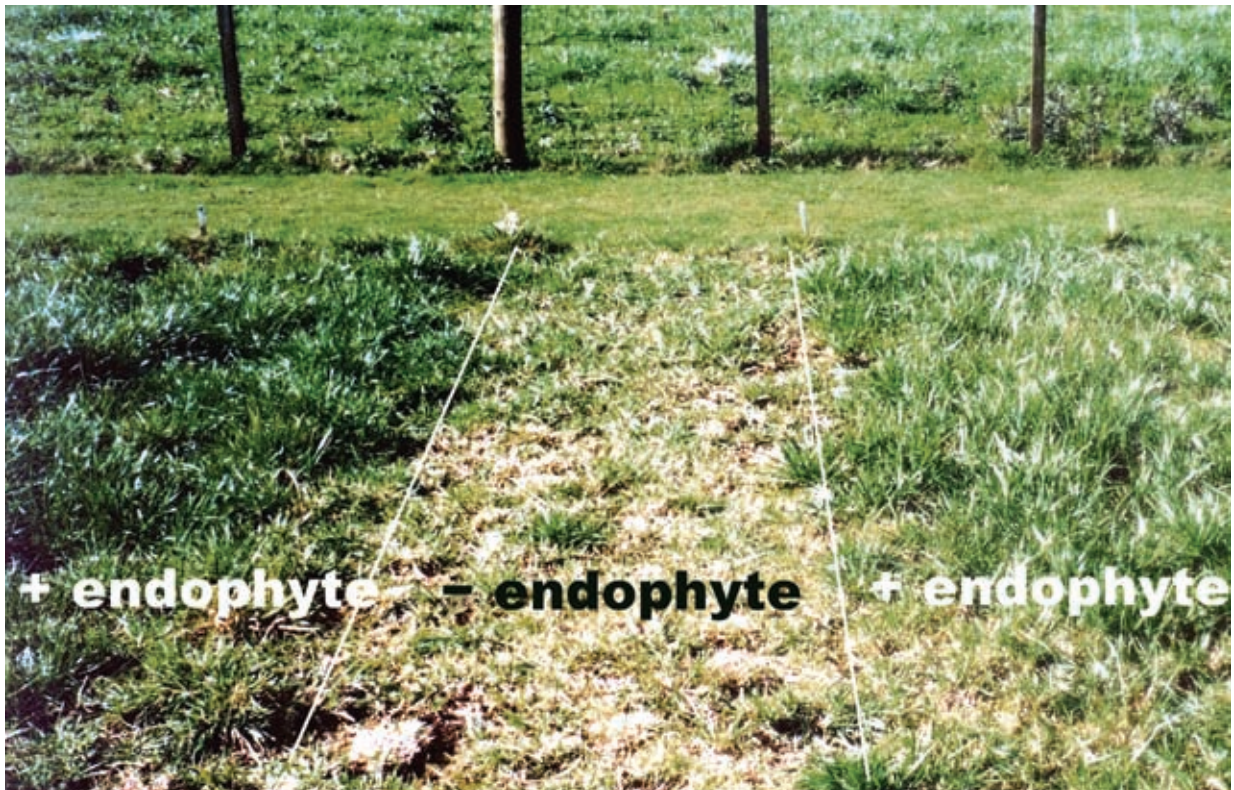


Figure 2. Insects Affected by MaxP®



Argentine Stem Weevil



Pasture Mealy Bug



Black Beetle adult



Root Aphid