

# Agrinote



Pastures for Profit.®



**Hokonui** forage oats are a specialist forage oat suitable for grazing or silage. **Hokonui** forage oats are unique in their high leaf to stem ratio, extreme winter hardiness and disease resistance, making them the ideal choice when quality winter feed is needed.

**Hokonui** forage oats have performed very well in yield trials throughout New Zealand. Rapid maturity means **Hokonui** forage oats can maximise the amount of quality feed produced per hectare both as an autumn forage or a spring silage proposition. **Hokonui** forage oats have a low bushel weight and are not suited to seed production.

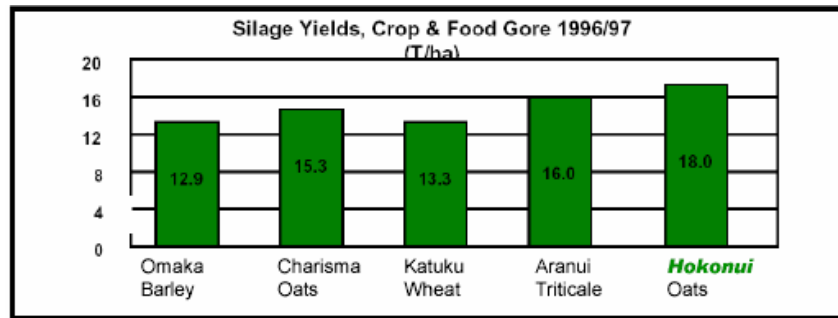
## Characteristics

Seed Size	Leaf/Stem Ratio	Preferred Fertility Status
Small	High	Medium to high

Disease Tolerance	Suggested Sowing Rate (kg/ha)
Crown rust in the South Island	Pure sward 100

- ✓ **Hokonui** oats are a specialist forage oat with a high leaf to stem ratio
- ✓ High feed value
- ✓ Bred for high winter hardiness
- ✓ Crown rust resistant in the South Island
- ✓ Very high yielding, suitable for grazing or silage

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**Hokonui** is a spring or autumn specialist forage oat suitable for most regions. **Hokonui** was bred by Crop & Food Research. It produces a consistent yield of highly digestible dry matter under most conditions. It has good resistance to most common oat diseases, and excellent winter hardiness.

## Key features

- ✓ Spring or autumn forage
- ✓ High yields in all conditions
- ✓ Highly digestible dry matter
- ✓ Clean and green to base
- ✓ Excellent disease resistance
- ✓ Excellent winter hardiness

## Characteristics

**Hokonui** is a medium maturity forage oat, suitable for both spring and autumn forage production.

It exhibits excellent rust resistance in the South Island. It has a small seed size making it unsuitable for grain production and a high leaf to stem ratio, producing reliable yields of very high quality, highly digestible dry matter. It tillers well with a slightly finer stem than average, and has an erect growth habit during the vegetative stage.

Spring sown trials indicate that it is the highest yielding oat cultivar in Southland and amongst the top yielding in Canterbury and Manawatu. An autumn sown cereal grazing trial, conducted by AgResearch in Canterbury, resulted in **Hokonui** providing the highest heifer weight gains during mid June to mid August.

Forage	Herbage Yield Mean of 4 paddocks (DM kg/ha)	Heifer Grazing Days Mean of 4 paddocks (days/ha)	Heifer Liveweight Gain 16.06.06 to 13.08.96 (kg/head/day)
Triticale	2135 a*	223 a	0.747 ab
<b>Hokonui</b> oats	<b>1693 b</b>	<b>186 b</b>	<b>0.827 a</b>
Omaka barley	1585 b	170 b	0.484 d
Rahu ryecorn	1768 b	195 b	0.461 d
Otama oats	1898 ab	182 b	0.640 c
Moata ryegrass			0.723 bc
LSD (5%)	411	24	0.094

\*Results within a column followed by the same letter are not significantly different at the 0.05 level. Note: Because the Moata was in a separate paddock it is not included in some analyses.

## Forage Quality

Forage quality is high compared to other oats. Its finer stem and good disease resistance give clean growth to the base, providing a very high

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## Sowing

level of digestibility, which is reflected in higher ME (metabolisable energy) values. It has excellent winter hardiness characteristics and will regrow if winter grazed moderately, but not if grazed severely.

**Hokonui** is recommended for autumn and spring sowing and can be sown from mid February to October. Recommended sowing rate is 90-100 kg/ha in autumn and spring.

## Fertiliser

**Hokonui** should be treated in the same way as other forage oats. When adequate soil moisture is available during the season, nitrogen can be used at tillering to increase forage yield. Where natural fertility is high, sowing rates should be lower to minimise the chance of lodging. Like most rapidly growing winter forages, nitrate poisoning can occur in certain circumstances.

## Harvesting

### Autumn Sown

The most suitable time for grazing is any time between late tillering and boot stage. The best yield and quality combination occurs at the late vegetative phase which often coincides with the greatest feed demand. Early, moderate grazing can result in greater regrowth.

**Hokonui** forage oats should be harvested at the late boot or flowering stage to optimise spring-sown silage's yield and quality.

**Hokonui** forage oats have performed exceptionally well in silage trials in Southland. Whole crop silage gives 2-5 times more production than pasture silage and allows all the pasture area to be fed to animals to maximise animal performance per hectare.

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Crop and Food-Gore (1996/97)  
DM yield

Cultivar	DM at Harvest	MJ ME/kg DM at harvest	Crude Protein % DM at Harvest
<i>Omaka</i> barley	12.9*	11.5	7.1
<i>Charisma</i> oats	15.3	10.8	7.9
<i>Katuku</i> wheat	13.3	11.2	7.6
<i>Aranui</i> triticale	16.0	11.2	7.2
<b><i>Hokonui</i></b> oats	<b>18.0</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>8.1</b>

\* Harvested at milky dough stage

The best time to harvest ***Hokonui*** oats if aiming for high energy is when they are in the late booting stage.