

Manta is a late heading diploid Italian ryegrass with an upright habit, medium tiller size, and broad leaves. Often it can be mistaken for a tetraploid Italian, especially through winter and spring. It has a very similar heading date to Asset (+ 12-15 days, exact date still to be confirmed).

- Very strong winter growth
- High total yield
- Broad visual plant type in all farm systems
- Low aftermath heading for an Italian ryegrass

Characteristics

Perenniality	Heading Date	Endophyte	Rust Tolerance	Aftermath Heading
2-3 years (upper NI 18 months)	Late (+ 12-15 days) TBC	Nil (AR37 by 2024)	Very high	Low

Manta is a new generation of Italian ryegrass that has undergone significant selection in the upper North Island and includes genetics from short term ryegrass ecotypes (some possibly hybrids) from Northland. Alongside this Northern New Zealand ecotype material, **Manta** has parents from a core pool of successful New Zealand Italian cultivars as well as genetics from Spain making it a diverse and exciting addition to Agricom's ryegrass portfolio.

Manta was originally bred with AR37 however it has first been commercialised in Australia as a fast starting Italian without endophyte. The AR37 multiplication was delayed in New Zealand and is due for release in 2023/24.

Manta is a long lived Italian with strong potential for persistence beyond its first year. Survival of **Manta** through a second summer is dependent on region and Argentine stem weevil populations.

Performance Data

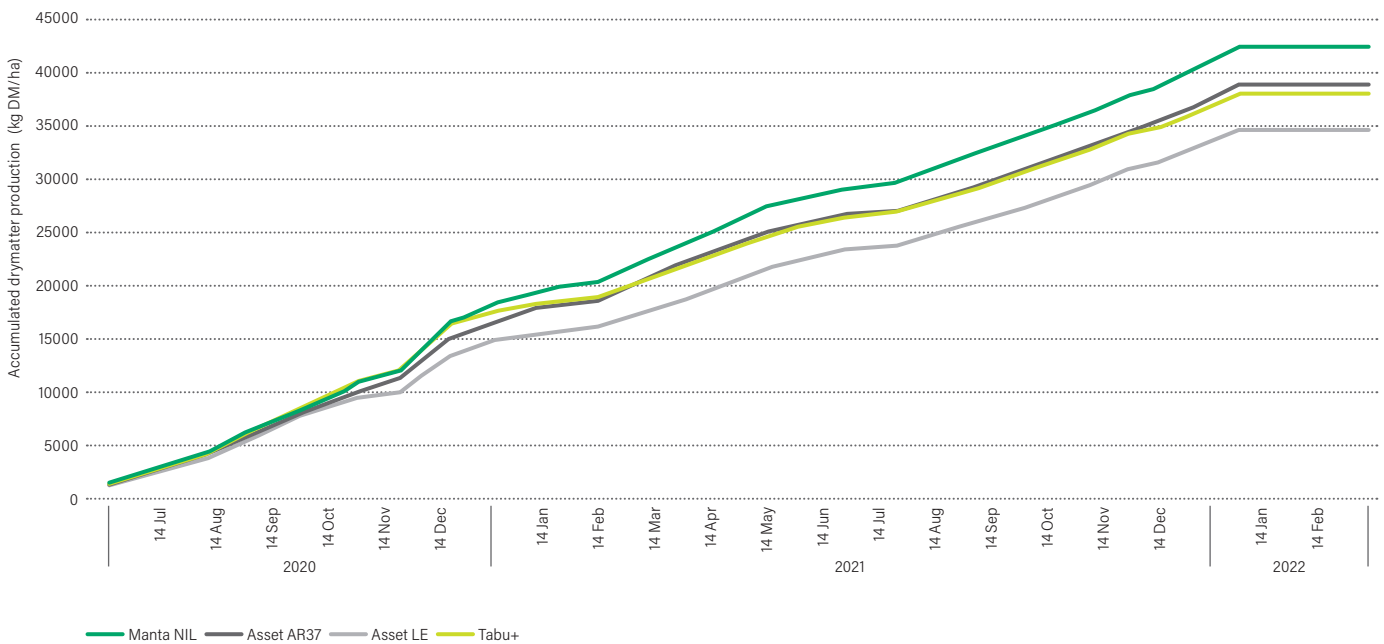
Seasonally **Manta** demonstrates very strong establishment and winter growth, peaking in performance through late September until the end of its first summer.

While **Manta** is currently Nil endophyte, it has a particularly strong second winter growth habit which is productive and highly visual (see photo to the right). With its strong establishment, **Manta** is ideal for undersowing into thinning or run-out pastures.



Photo from Ngahinapouri 5th August 2021, 16 months after establishment **Manta** standing out visually.

Italian ryegrass accumulated yield (kg DM/ha) over 20 months at Ngahinapouri, Waikato.
 Trial sown late autumn 2020.



Waikato trial. **Manta** Italian ryegrass middle, Halo AR37 tetraploid perennial ryegrass left, Tabu + Italian ryegrass right. Photo taken November 2021, trial 18 months old.



Manawatu trial. Jivet annual ryegrass left, **Manta** Italian ryegrass right. Photo taken 22nd July 2022

Sheep and Beef Pasture Example Mix

Manta Italian ryegrass	18 kg/ha
Attribute white clover	3 kg/ha
Relish red clover	4 kg/ha
Total	25 kg/ha

Dairy Pasture Undersowing Example Mix

Manta Italian ryegrass	12-15 kg/ha
Ecotain [®] environmental plantain	3 kg/ha
Total	15-18 kg/ha