Grasslands® Manta Italian Ryegrass

Agrinote

AR128 grasslanz endophyte

Big, bold, and highly productive

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 (+15 days).

- Very strong winter growth
- High total yield
- Broad visual plant type in all farm systems
- Ideal for short-term pasture rotations

Characteristics

Ploidy	Perenniality	Heading date	Suggested sowing rate	Endophyte	Rust tolerance	Aftermath heading
Diploid	2-3 years (upper NI 18 months)	Late (+15 days)	20-25 kg/ha	AR128 & LE	Very high	Low aftermath in comparison to other cultivars of a similar type

Background

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. **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.

Manta LE is fast to establish, has robust winter production, and an extended period of productivity. In the northern regions in New Zealand, **Manta** LE is anticipated to endure through a second winter, while in milder climates, it demonstrates significant persistence for an Italian ryegrass. **Manta** LE is suitable for grazing with all stock types.

Manta with **AR128** endophyte is a fast establishing highly productive variety which is a recent addition to the **AR128** endophyte line up. **Manta AR128** stands out as an excellent choice for undersowing into damaged pastures, leveraging its quick establishment and robust growth offering a dependable solution for such scenarios. It should be noted that **Manta AR128** may cause ryegrass staggers. **Manta AR128** is only recommended for beef and dairy.

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

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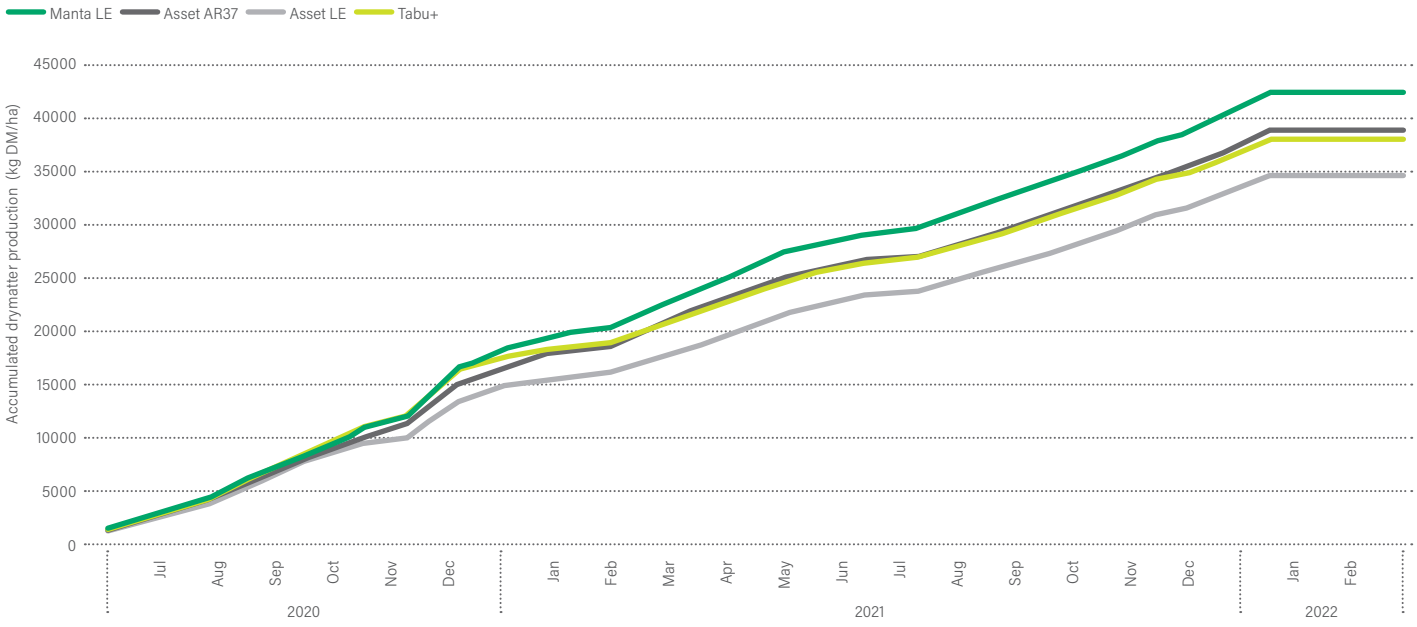
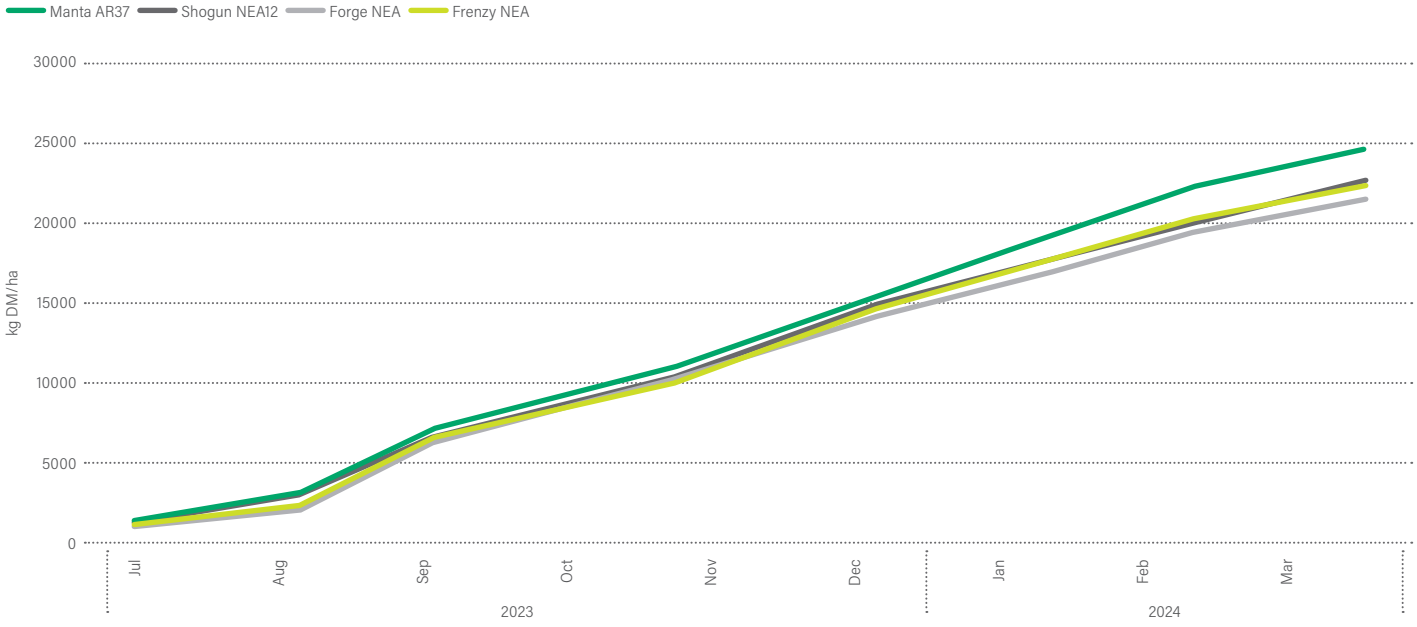
Italian ryegrass accumulated yield (kg DM/ha) over 20 months at Ngahinapouri, Waikato. Trial sown late autumn 2020.



Hybrid ryegrass and Manta AR37 accumulated yield (kg DM/ha) over 10 months at Ngahinapouri, Waikato. Trial sown April 2023.



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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

Manta AR37 left and Asset AR37 right in the middle of the Northland dry. Photo taken late February 2024

Split paddock Tabu+ (left) **Manta AR37** (right) in the Waikato 10 days post grazing.

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Example mixes include:

SHEEP AND BEEF PASTURE MIX

Manta pasture is ideal for strip grazing in winter, grazing in early spring, and silage in early summer with the potential to last 2+ years.

Manta AR128* or LE Italian ryegrass	18 kg/ha
Attribute white clover	3 kg/ha
Relish red clover	4 kg/ha
Total	**25 kg/ha**

SHORT TERM PASTURE MIX

Manta LE is an ideal option for a short term pasture.

Manta LE Italian ryegrass	20-25 kg/ha
Attribute white clover	3 kg/ha
Relish or Sensation red clover	4 kg/ha
Total	**27-32 kg/ha**

DAIRY PASTURE UNDERSOWING MIX

Manta AR128* is ideal for undersowing into thinning or runout pastures. It has improved insect protection leading to increased second year persistence.

Manta AR128* Italian ryegrass	12-15 kg/ha
Ecotain® environmental plantain	3 kg/ha
Total	**15-18 kg/ha**

This isn't your typical speed dating event but a unique podcast where you get to meet one of Agricom's forage products.

Discover its attributes, understand its benefits, and see how it fits into your farm system. Join our forage relationship expert, Allister Moorhead and professional matchmaker, Glenn Judson. As they lead you through this exciting journey!

SCAN ME

or visit www.agricom.co.nz/podcast/seed-dating/manta-italian-ryegrass

*It is not advisable to mix **AR128** and **AR1** varieties. **AR1** is not recommended for areas where black beetle, porina or root aphid are common problem pests. Grass seed should be **Superstrike*** treated where Argentine stem weevil, black beetle or grass grub are a risk to seedlings. **AR128** is only recommended for sheep, beef, and dairy.

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