

“A persistent long rotation tetraploid for silage and short term pastures”

- Available with **AR37** and **AR1** novel endophytes and LE
- Ideal for undersowing
- Very strong spring growth
- A persistent long rotation tetraploid

Background

Ohau AR37 is a high-yielding tetraploid hybrid (“long rotation”) ryegrass bred by AgResearch Grasslands.

Ohau AR37 is a true hybrid ryegrass, bred from crosses between Warrior Italian ryegrass and **Samson** perennial ryegrass. These two cultivars are thoroughly proven, exhibit very good persistence, rust tolerance and yield. High selection pressure was placed on regrowth after grazing, palatability, cool-season growth, and freedom from disease.

The Italian parentage makes **Ohau AR37** a good option where greater persistence than Italian ryegrass (“short rotation” ryegrass) is required, but faster establishment and more coolseason growth than perennial ryegrass is wanted. Its rapid establishment and high winter and early-spring growth makes it ideal for undersowing into run out pastures. The **AR37** endophyte in **Ohau** is important because insect pressure is often high when undersowing, and this endophyte provides the broadest insect protection currently available by an endophyte.

Ohau AR37 has a medium-late heading date (+8 days), with a similar tiller density and leaf size to most long-rotation tetraploid ryegrasses. It also has good growth in summer compared with Italian ryegrass, and good late-winter and early-spring growth compared with perennial ryegrass.

Persistence is similar to standard tetraploid perennial ryegrass, although tetraploids tend to be more susceptible than diploid ryegrass to damage from pugging and over grazing.

Uses

Ohau AR37 is the ideal cultivar to use for undersowing into run out or thinning pastures due to its quick establishment, fast winter and spring growth, insect tolerance and persistence. It provides better persistence than Italian ryegrass (“short rotation” ryegrass), and greater establishment vigour and winter growth than perennial ryegrass. Sowing rates of **Ohau AR37** need to be higher than with diploid Italian ryegrass due to the larger seed size.

Ohau AR37 can also be used as a new pasture (sole ryegrass species) option.

Ohau AR37 has excellent early spring and summer growth to provide high quality feed when it is most required. Being a tetraploid, **Ohau AR37** has excellent quality and can be used to fatten and finish lambs quickly. The increased insect persistence gives **Ohau AR37** more chance of surviving in high insect pressure areas.

Where insects are present at the time of sowing, seed treatment (or other insecticides) are recommended. Endophyte does not provide protection in the first six-eight weeks after sowing. If black beetle larvae are present, delay sowing until they begin pupating (usually late March), and use **Superstrike** or **Ultrastrike** (if grass grub is also present) seed treatment. Adults and larvae may still be found in spring and summer where insect pressure is high, due to adults feeding on plants in the pasture other than **Ohau AR37**, resulting in some eggs being laid and developing into larvae over summer.

Ohau AR37 is also suited for new pasture sowings (e.g. after crops or spraying), to provide a high performing pasture for cool-season and total production, and high animal growth rates.

Farmers can expect persistence to be similar to perennial tetraploids, but in some environments the **AR37** may give better persistence than cultivars with other endophyte types. As with any tetraploid or hybrid ryegrass, it is more likely than diploid perennial ryegrass to thin out, following periods of severe drought, lack of fertiliser, or severe over-grazing, and is more prone to pugging damage. For these reasons, **Ohau AR37** is best suited to irrigation or high rainfall climates, with good fertiliser use, free-draining soils, and controlled grazing.