Grasslands® Reason Perennial Ryegrass

Agrinote

AR128 grasslanz endophyte AR1 grasslanz endophyte

Early season boost, all season performance.

Reason AR128 is a high performance, resilient diploid perennial that has low aftermath heading in summer and maintains summer and autumn productivity similar to existing late heading dairy options. **Reason** is ideal for early spring set stocking, with its summer quality making it well suited for a range of stock classes.

- Well balanced seasonal growth with excellent early spring productivity
- Very good tiller density
- Extremely low aftermath heading in summer
- Excellent tolerance to a wide range of environments

Characteristics

Ploidy	Perenniality	Heading date	Suggested sowing rate	Endophyte	Rust tolerance	Aftermath heading
Diploid	Perennial	Mid (+ 3*)	18-20 kg/ha	AR128 & AR1	Excellent	Very low compared to other cultivars of a similar heading date

Heading date comparisons

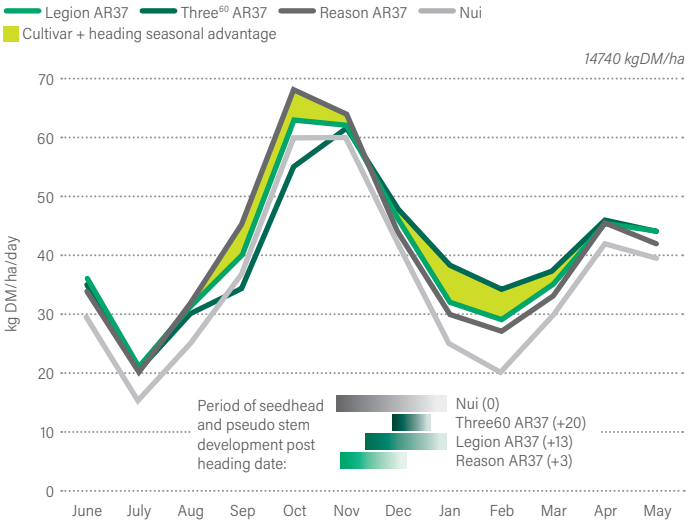
Reason has a + 3 heading date vs Nui* at 0 days. In Agricom's portfolio **Reason** has a similar heading to Samson and it is 10 days earlier than Legion and Prospect and 17 days earlier than Three[60].

* Nui heading date at 0 days is the 22nd October

Production

Reason has demonstrated excellent persistence and resilience throughout New Zealand, consistently delivering high quality, year-round production.

Figure 1. Influence of heading date on Agricom ryegrass' seasonal drymatter production over 2020-2022 in the Manawatu



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Performance

Winter	Early spring	Late spring	Summer	Autumn
High	Very high	Industry average	High	Very high

Nui (left) vs Reason AR37 perennial ryegrass (right), Waikato

Image 1. November 16th 2023, 8 months from sowing.

Image 2. January 15th 2024, 10 months post sowing.

Image 3. April 10th 2024, 13 months from sowing.

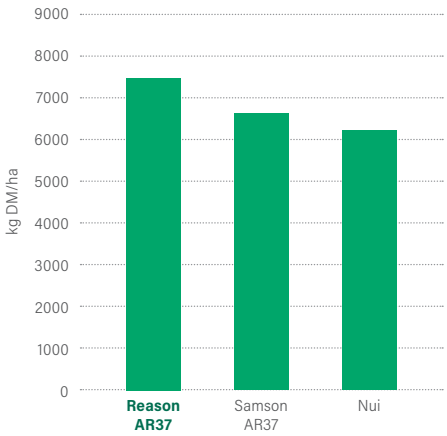
Plant breeding gains in mid-heading ryegrass

In the autumn of 2019 two perennial grass cultivar evaluation sites were sown in Canterbury specifically to focus on the performance of a range of species and cultivars in dryland conditions.

Key findings:

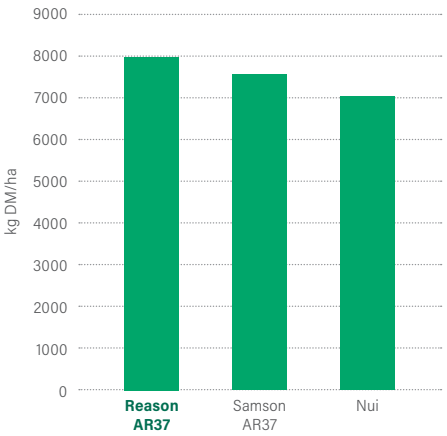
- **Reason AR37** was the best performing perennial ryegrass in dryland conditions
- Significant advantage to **Reason AR37** compared to older genetics in autumn drought recovery and winter production
- While this represents a small percentage of total yield for these sites these seasons are extremely important to dryland farmers

Figure 2. Annual drymatter production of selected cultivars, mean of 3 years, Southburn, 2019-2023



LSD = 388 kg DM/ha

Figure 3. Annual drymatter production of selected cultivars, mean of 3 years, Kirwee, 2019-2022



LSD = 779kg DM/ha

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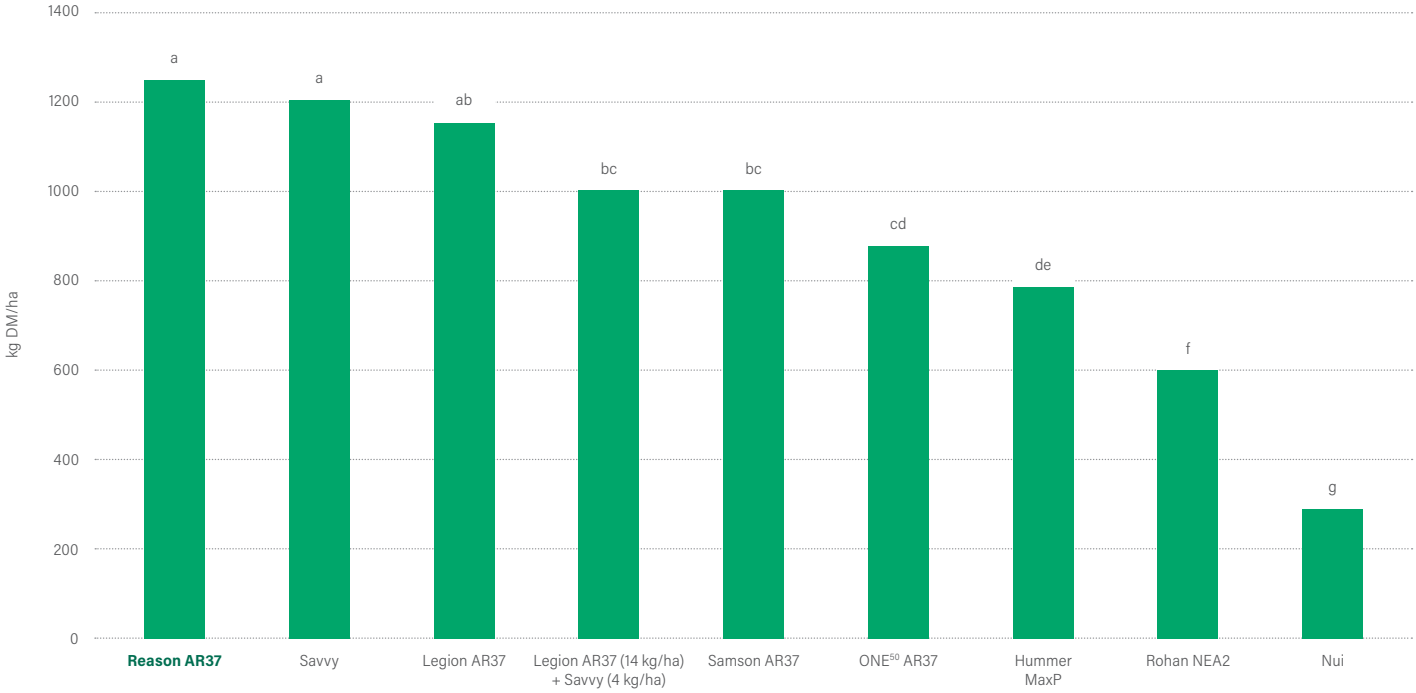
Impressive drought recovery

With the summer of 2019-2020 being so dry both Kriwee and Southburn dryland trial sites were subjected to extreme drought conditions. Across both sites **Reason AR37** responded quickly to autumn rainfall post drought phase and numerically topped both trials in the cut after the drought (Figure 4). Savvy cocksfoot, Legion AR37 perennial ryegrass and Legion AR37 + Savvy mixes also performed strongly.

Image 4: Kirwee trial site on 21st February 2020 after a dry summer period. 15 mm rain fell shortly before this photo was taken.

Image 5: Drought recovery on the 22nd of April 2020. **Reason AR37** left, other perennial ryegrasses middle and right.

Figure 4. Drymatter production of selected cultivars, Kirwee, Canterbury 28th April 2020
Yield measurement – 67 days autumn regrowth after a dry summer period



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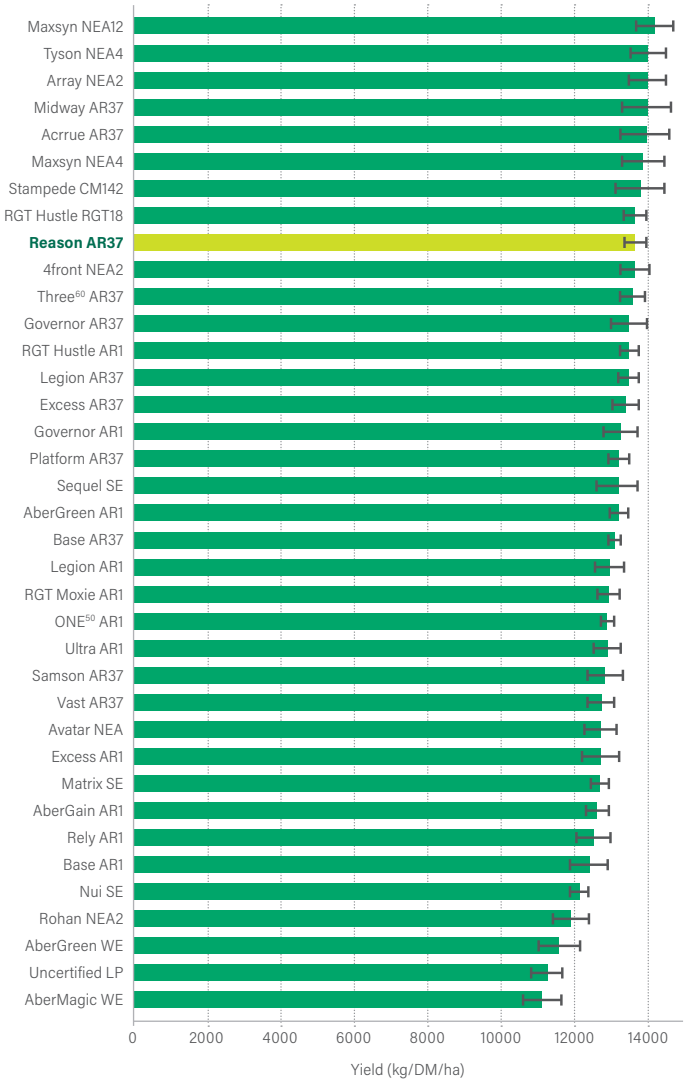
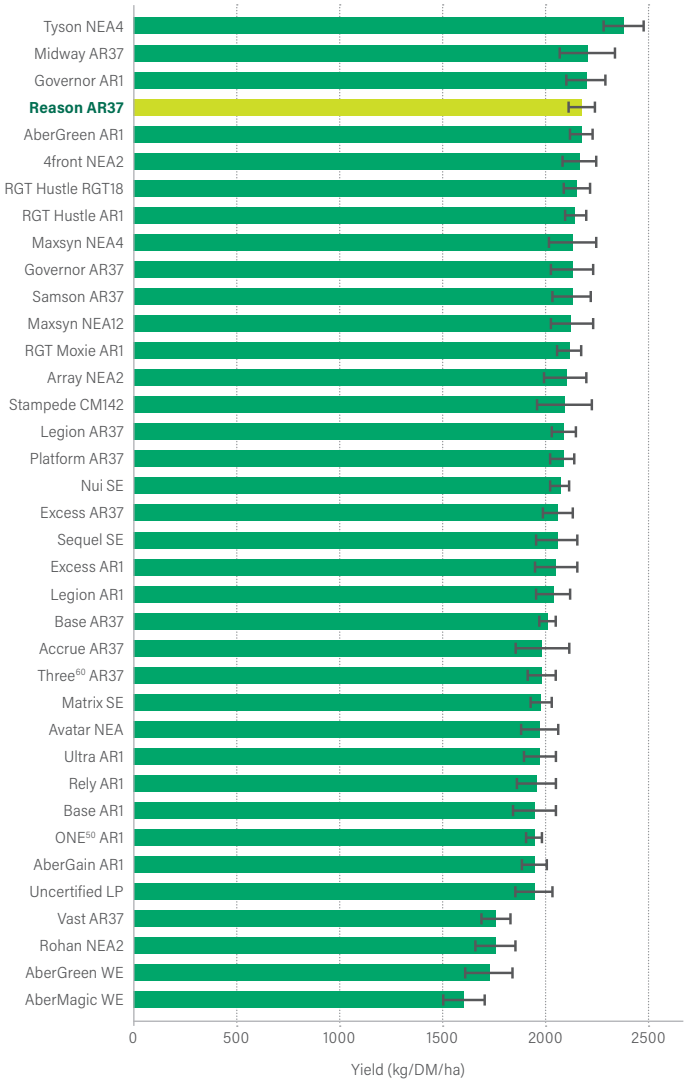
Performance data

NFVT Perennial Ryegrass | All New Zealand | 2026-2027

Total Yield



Early Spring Yield



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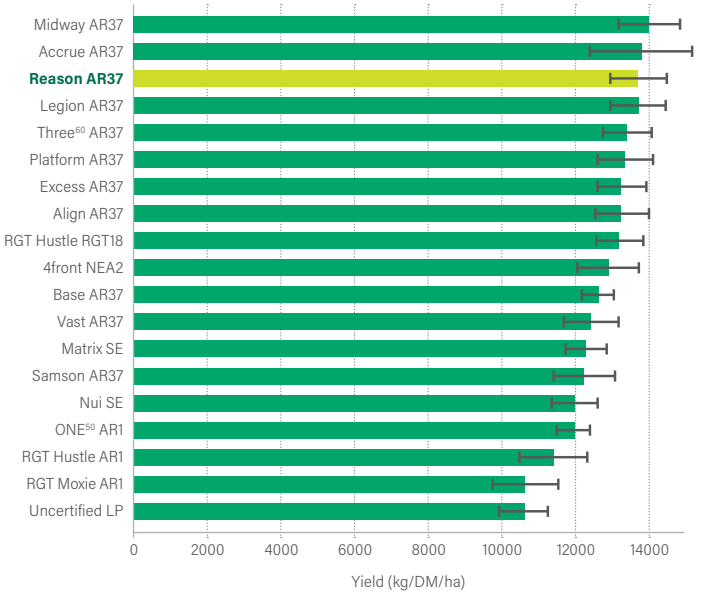
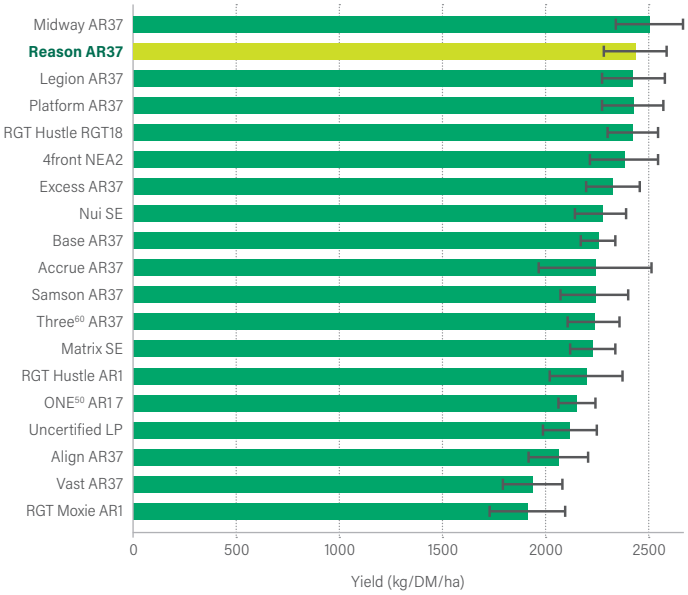
NFVT Perennial Ryegrass | Upper North Island | 2026-2027

Total Yield

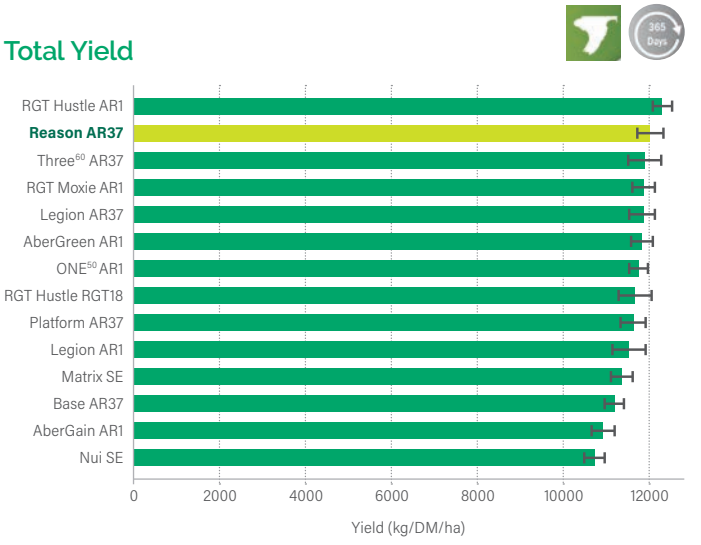


Early Spring Yield

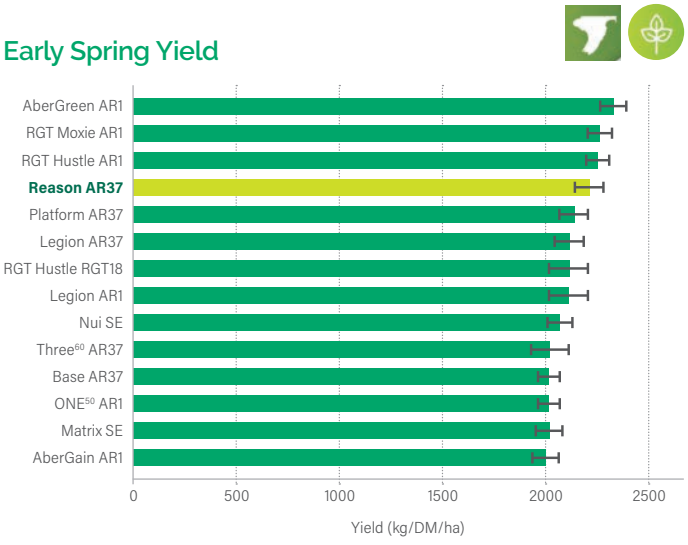


NFVT Perennial Ryegrass | Lower North Island | 2026-2027

Total Yield



Early Spring Yield



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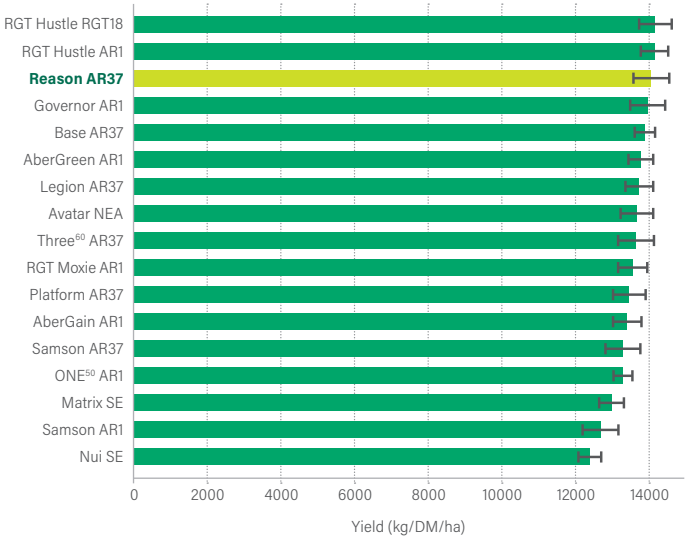
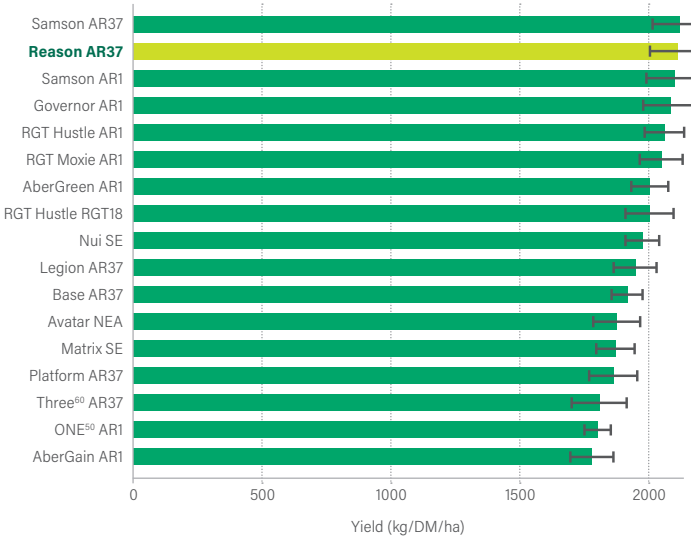
NFVT Perennial Ryegrass | Upper South Island | 2026-2027

Total Yield



Early Spring Yield



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Example mixes include:

SHEEP AND BEEF

Reason is ideal for early spring set stocking, with its summer quality making it well suited to a range of stock classes. Its low aftermath heading and autumn growth potential making it an excellent fit for autumn mating in sheep systems.

Reason AR128 or **AR1** perennial ryegrass*	18 kg/ha
Attribute white clover	3 kg/ha
Nomad white clover	2 kg/ha
Relish red clover	4 kg/ha
Choice chicory	2 kg/ha
Ecotain® environmental plantain or AgriTonic plantain	1 kg/ha
Total	**30 kg/ha**

DAIRY

Reason AR128 is an ideal mid heading ryegrass to add an earlier heading date to dairy platforms that have a lot of late heading ryegrass. **Reason AR128** is a high performance, resilient diploid perennial that has low aftermath heading in summer and maintains summer and autumn productivity similar to existing late heading dairy options.

Reason AR128 or **AR1** perennial ryegrass*	20 kg/ha
Attribute white clover	2 kg/ha
Brace white clover	3 kg/ha
Total	**25 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/reason-perennial-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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