

# Agrinote



Pastures for Profit.®



## Background

Grasslands **Torlesse** is a lucerne bred by AgResearch Grasslands. The breeding objective was to develop a winter dormant lucerne cultivar with high production and resistance to the main pests and diseases of lucerne. Approximately 150 cloned lucerne plants were screened for resistance to stem nematode and then inter-crossed. This material was developed from eight lines that had previously been selected for resistance to blue-green aphid and then selected for superior agronomic features.

Winter dormancy is essential for persistence in the colder lucerne growing areas of New Zealand. **Torlesse** has similar winter dormancy levels to Wairau with very high spring and summer production.

**Torlesse** is dual-purpose; New Zealand bred lucerne suitable for hay or silage and grazing.

## Characteristics

Perenniality	Winter Dormancy Index	Flowering Date	1000 Seed Weight	Suggested Sowing Rate (kg/ha)
Perennial	*4	Medium	2.0 grams	Pure sward 10-13

\* 1–10 winter dormancy scale, with 10 being the most active

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## Key Features

- ✓ New Zealand bred
- ✓ Winter dormant lucerne suitable for colder lucerne growing regions of New Zealand
- ✓ Excellent resistance to stem nematode, blue-green aphid, bacterial wilt fusarium wilt, verticilium wilt and general leaf disease
- ✓ Dual-purpose lucerne suitable for grazing or conservation

## Disease Resistance Profiles

Cultivar	Blue Green Aphid	Spotted Alfalfa Aphid	Verticilium Wilt	Phytophthora Root Rot	Stem Nematode	Leaf Diseases
<b>Torlesse</b>	R	R	MR	R	R	MR
Kaituna	R	R	MR	R	R	MR
WL 325HQ	R	R	R	R	R	R
5454	MR	R	MR	R	MR	-
5681	R	R	MR	R	MR	-
Wairau	S	S	S	S	S	S

R = Resistance, MR = Moderate Resistance, S = Susceptible

- = No information available

## Production

Replicated Dry Matter Trial, AgResearch Lincoln, Canterbury,  
kg DM/ha 1996-1998 Sown Spring 1995

Cultivar	1996/97	1997/98	Total
Grasslands <b>Torlesse</b>	17800	9500	27300
Grasslands Kaituna	17500	9800	27300
Wairau	16900	9800	26700

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