

# Technical Update - Grass Reseeding

Information correct as at 09:00am on 11.03.2022

- Forage productivity is crucial under current market conditions
- New leys will give much better responses to expensive fertiliser
- Payback can be seen in as little as 1 year
- Look at options for legumes to reduce reliance on artificial N

## Why Reseed?

There have always been good reasons to adopt a regular reseeding policy, but with increased fertiliser costs the extra potential of new leys is even more significant. Although the majority of reseeds are sown in the autumn the principles still apply for spring reseeds. Upgrading a sward gives the following advantages and opportunities:

- Improves pasture yield and quality
- Allows the introduction of modern grass genetics with improved productivity, quality, durability and disease resistance
- Increases pasture response to fertiliser by using more nitrogen-efficient varieties
- Reduces weed burden
- Can help to address any soil compaction problems
- Gives an opportunity to introduce clover into the sward

## Causes of Sward Deterioration:

Before embarking on the investment of a reseed it is always worth identifying why the current sward is not performing. If these underlying problems are not rectified the benefits will be reduced:

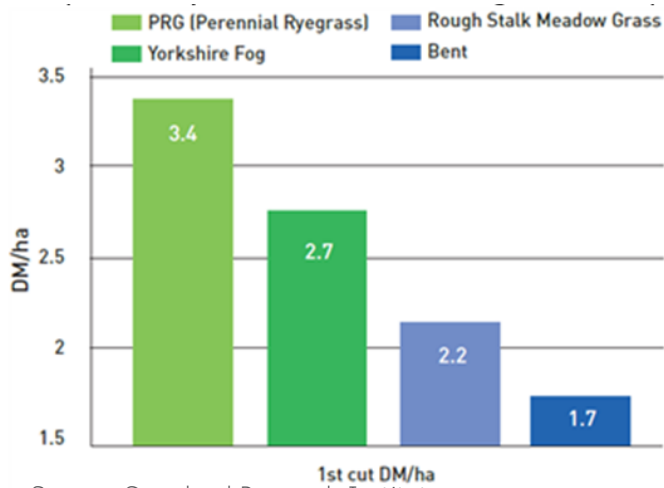
- Poor drainage and soil structure
- Incorrect soil pH and low nutrient status
- Poor management by understocking and overstocking allowing non sown species to flourish at the expense of the desired mixture

## Reseeding – is it worth it?

- A full reseed will cost £155 - £170/acre (£30 - £35 per year over 5 years)
- You will see a 30% boost in yield year 1 then 10% per year after that (compared to a 5-year- old ley)
- For example, 5.2t DM/acre compared to 4t DM/acre
- If grass silage costs £160/t DM then reseeding cost recouped in one year from extra yield alone

## Yield of PRG vs Weed grasses:

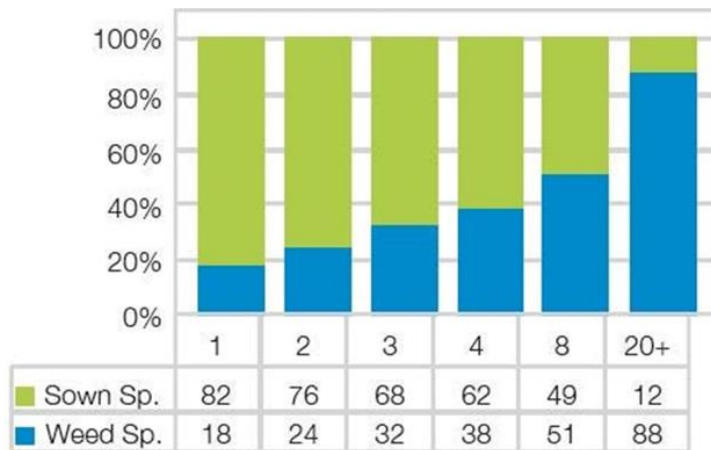
The table below shows the higher fertiliser response rates for Ryegrass compared to some weed grasses.



Source: Grassland Research Institute

## Weed Ingression

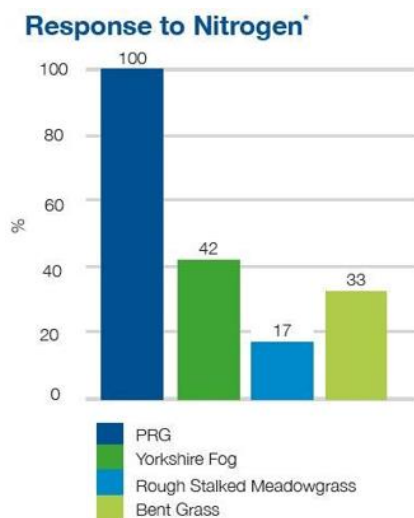
- Even in well managed swards proportion of sown species deteriorates over time
- After 5 years could make up 40% of the sward



Source: Grassland Research Institute

## Ryegrass vs. weed grasses

- Ryegrasses show significantly higher response to increased N applications



\*These losses in response occur when N is increased from 50-150 units/ac

Source: Grassland Research Institute

## Which Grass Seed?

- Always use varieties on the NIAB list which have been proven for their yield, quality and disease resistance characteristics
- Choose a mixture that is suitable for the farm's specific conditions and the required end use
- Perennial ryegrasses will provide a quality product throughout the season, giving greater yields of energy and protein
- Consider using clover in mixes to reduce N requirements and add protein to forages
- If grassland weeds are under control, then consider introducing clover into existing swards
- All Advance grass seed mixes have been specially selected for a specific role and from 2022 all have the option of clover inclusion, with the varieties chosen for their compatibility with the rest of the sward.

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For further discussion or to help with any questions that you may have, please contact Consultant Support on [consultantsupport@kiteconsulting.com](mailto:consultantsupport@kiteconsulting.com) or 01902 851007 / 07542 403225

