



# Need quick feed?

With the summer dry thinning out some pastures, undersowing *Tabu* Italian ryegrass is a good option where quick feed is needed.

agriseeds®  
**TABU**  
Italian Ryegrass

Recent dry conditions may have damaged some paddocks on your farm, causing poor ryegrass survival and open pastures. On top of this, some pastures still have not recovered from the 2008 drought. If left like this the result will be poor DM production in the coming year.

Now is the time to address this situation. Assess the condition of all your paddocks, and identify which need attention. Taking action to improve DM production now will help provide feed for autumn milking or putting condition on cows. It will also mean more spring feed for calving.

For run out pastures with poor ryegrass density, the best long-term solution is cultivation and full renovation. But this is not feasible if you need to renew large areas. This is where undersowing comes in. Stitching in a fast-growing Italian ryegrass like *Tabu* allows larger areas to be quickly renewed and can provide high yields of quality feed in the coming months.

### Benefits of undersowing *Tabu*.

- Explosive establishment speed, fast to first grazing.
- High levels of winter and spring growth.
- Allows larger areas to be renewed - pastures are only out of the grazing round for a short time.
- Unbeaten for total yield in the latest National Forage Variety Trials (NFVT®).

### Undersowing tips for best results.

- **Hard graze** the paddock(s) before drilling to reduce the amount of cover present.
- **Undersow seed at 10 - 15 kg/ha**, picking the higher rate for thinner pastures.
- **Don't wait for rain.** Sow early in the dry. When rain does come, the seed will be up and out of the ground straight away. If you wait for rain, you could lose several weeks of growth.
- **Use *Agricote* treated seed.** Pests like Argentine stem weevil and black beetle can cause serious damage to undersown ryegrass seedlings. *Agricote* seed treatment also contains nutrients and fungicides to help ensure good establishment.
- **Keep grazing the pasture normally.** This limits competition for light and moisture from existing pasture.
- **Use Nitrogen to help boost recovering pastures.** But remember to monitor herbage nitrate levels - they can be high following extended dry conditions.

For more information on undersowing with *Tabu* contact your local seed merchant or local Agriseeds area manager on 0800 449 955.

[www.agriseeds.co.nz](http://www.agriseeds.co.nz)