

# Are Your Pastures Persisting?

In some regions of New Zealand pasture persistence has become a real issue in recent years. It is important to understand the likely causes, and what options you have to get longer service from your pastures.

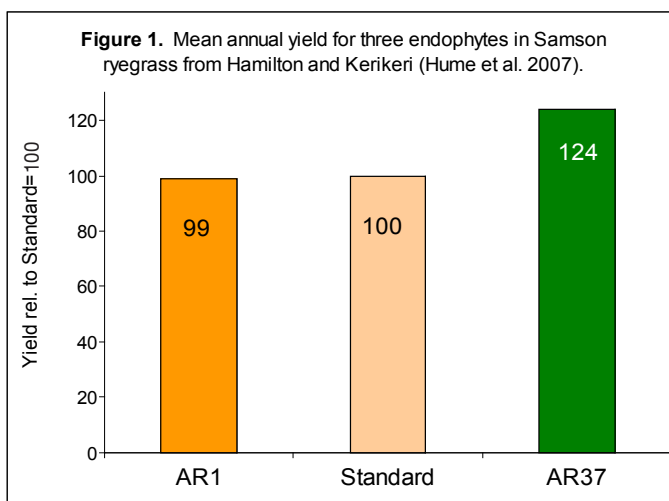
Two dry years have contributed, but just as importantly is the rapid rise of insect populations, especially black beetle.

Many farmers have noticed that pastures planted in the last 3-8 years have not persisted as well as pastures used to. This is not because new cultivars of perennial ryegrass are less persistent than those used in the 1980s and 1990s, but for many there has been a change in types of endophyte used. AR1 endophyte has no resistance to root aphid and has less resistance to black beetle and porina, than the standard endophyte (HE) used previously, or the newer endophyte, **AR37\***. It is the combination of these insects, along with drought stress, that has devastated many AR1-ryegrass pastures in some regions, while at the same time, ryegrass pastures with **AR37** endophyte have survived (see photo).



Same variety with two endophyte options, Waikato.

**If you want persistence in ryegrass, first consider all the cultivars available with AR37, and then select the type of cultivar that suits your needs best. AR37\* endophyte is the best way to “future proof” your pastures.**



## Summary

Farmers are correct to consider persistence as the most important criteria for selecting pasture seed, because all other characteristics suddenly become unimportant if the grass disappears within three years, or the first drought. As well as being more persistent, **AR37** boosts annual (Figure 1) and seasonal production.

For more information, consult your **Agricom Pasture Sowing Guide**, phone **0800 183 358**, visit **www.agricom.co.nz** or see your **local seed merchant**.

\*AR37 can cause ryegrass staggers. For complete information on AR37 see the Agricom Pasture Sowing Guide or visit [www.agricom.co.nz](http://www.agricom.co.nz)

Another great product from:  
**AGRICOM**  
Pastures for Profit®

For ryegrass varieties available with **AR37**, see overleaf.

Grasslands®

# Ohau



## Tetraploid Long-Rotation Ryegrass

### “The new undersowing option”

- Rapid establishment and explosive winter growth makes **Ohau** ideal for undersowing
- High-yielding ryegrass
- Very strong cool-season production
- Unique heading date (+8) and seasonal growth

### Performance

**Ohau** is a long-rotation ryegrass that has strong winter and early spring activity. This allows **Ohau** to contribute valuable growth in the critical early lambing and calving period. The rapid establishment and winter/spring growth of **Ohau** means it is ideally suited to undersowing. The key advantage over Italian ryegrass is that **Ohau AR37** persists for several years and is tolerant of most insects.

**Ohau AR37** is also suited as a perennial pasture providing high quality, medium-long-term pasture, in conditions suited to tetraploid ryegrass.

Grasslands®

# Commando



## Perennial Ryegrass

### “Persistence and excellent early-spring growth”

- Very good persistence
- Bred specifically for high production dairy farms
- Explosive early-spring growth
- Good rust tolerance

### Performance

**Commando** is a reliable high-yielding ryegrass that has performed well from Northland to Southland. **Commando** has rapid regrowth in early-spring, which helps to meet the crucial animal demand on most dairy farms at this time. This early growth combined with good rust tolerance and summer growth, is ideally suited to the seasonal demands on dairy farms.

Grasslands

# Samson



## Perennial Ryegrass

### “Persistent and trusted performer”

- Productive under sheep and beef management
- Excellent persistence and rust tolerance
- Proven in a wide range of New Zealand environments

### Performance

**Samson** is a highly successful perennial ryegrass that excels under sheep and beef grazing. Many farmers trust **Samson** because it has persisted so well for them. Its low stem production in late-spring and summer and strong summer and autumn drymatter production makes **Samson** an ideal general-purpose perennial. Due to its broad breeding background **Samson** is a very good choice for long-term pasture throughout the country.

Grasslands®

# Halo



## Tetraploid Perennial Ryegrass

### “Optimum quality all-year-round”

- Very late heading-date and tetraploid for optimum feed quality
- Perennial with good tiller density
- Strong year-round growth

### Performance

**Halo AR37** should be used where farmers require maximum performance from a perennial tetraploid pasture. It can be used in all regions, but longevity and production will be optimised on soils with good fertility and drainage, and that don't suffer from severe droughts.

**Halo AR37** will survive and produce better than many cultivars where there is insect pressure, especially black beetle, porina\*, and root aphid.

## Protect Against...



**Black Beetle**  
Northland, Waikato,  
Bay of Plenty, East  
Coast, Hawkes Bay  
& Coastal Taranaki



**Argentine  
Stem Weevil**  
New Zealand wide



**Root Aphid**  
New Zealand wide



**Pasture Mealy Bug**  
New Zealand wide



**Porina\***  
New Zealand wide,  
especially areas with  
moist and cloudy  
summers

\* Early field trial results confirmed laboratory evidence of resistance of ryegrass with AR37 to porina.  
Note, in pastures with AR37 ryegrass, porina can be present and feed on other pasture mix components, e.g. clover.

Note: AR37 can cause ryegrass staggers, but this has not been observed in any class of cattle, despite testing and extensive use.