

# Agrinote



Pastures for Profit.®



## Background

**Supreme<sup>PLUS</sup>** is a diploid perennial hybrid ryegrass with a parentage that is three quarters perennial and one quarter Italian.

The focus of the breeding program carried out by Grasslands at Gore, was for a hybrid that had both persistence and quality, but also high late winter and early spring production. **Supreme<sup>PLUS</sup>** has a high tiller density to better survive in pugged or heavily grazed conditions.

## Key Features

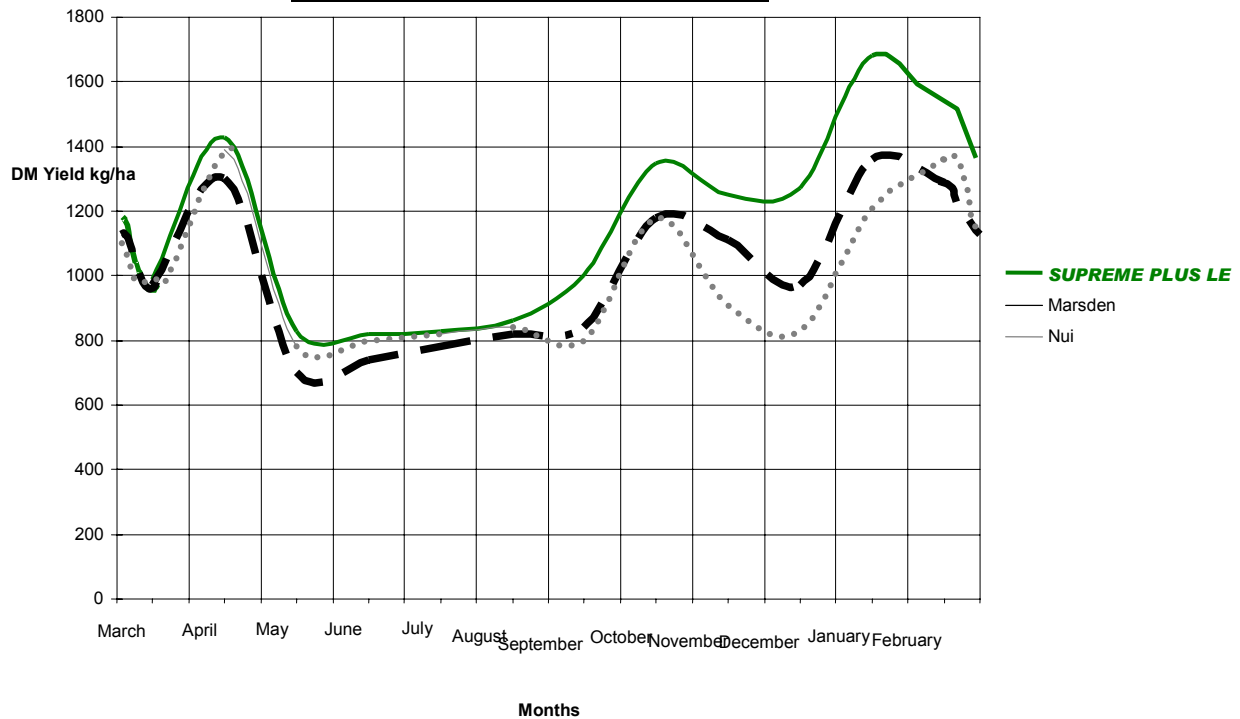
- ✓ High winter and early spring growth
- ✓ Late flowering
- ✓ Has the hybrid advantage giving improved animal performance
- ✓ High persistence compared to other hybrids
- ✓ Available in AR1, standard and low endophyte options

## Production Performance

The following trial results show **Supreme<sup>PLUS</sup>** is able to produce up to 16% more annual drymatter than *Nui* with significantly more early spring production. **Supreme<sup>PLUS</sup>** has the animal production advantages that hybrid ryegrasses show over traditional perennial ryegrasses, making **Supreme<sup>PLUS</sup>** an essential component of all high production pasture mixes.

**Supreme<sup>PLUS</sup>** has shown surprising persistence for a hybrid. In some long-term Southland trials, **Supreme<sup>PLUS</sup>** has persisted just as well as perennial controls.

### Southland Monthly Growth Distribution February 1996 – February 1998



## Appropriate Management of Hybrid Ryegrass

To maximise the production of **Supreme<sup>PLUS</sup>** and the consequent financial returns from it, the following management issues must be considered. **Supreme<sup>PLUS</sup>** can potentially be one of the most productive pastures on the property when managed correctly.

- ✓ **Supreme<sup>PLUS</sup>** pastures should be managed for high production by avoiding overgrazing or pugging.
- ✓ Maximise the legume content and production, particularly in the first three seasons by limiting heavy spring and summer grazing. Instead, continue to lightly graze with lambs or cattle where possible.
- ✓ Ensure pastures are adequately fertilised, recognising that production per hectare will be higher than other pastures on the farm. **Supreme<sup>PLUS</sup>** is very responsive to nitrogen fertiliser applications.

## Role of Supreme<sup>PLUS</sup>

### a) High Quality Perennial Pasture Mix – Dairy/Beef/Sheep/Deer

**Supreme<sup>PLUS</sup>** can be used in place of perennial ryegrass.

Grasslands <b>Supreme<sup>PLUS</sup></b> long rotation ryegrass	10 kg/ha
Grasslands Sterling long rotation ryegrass	14 kg/ha
Grasslands Tribute white clover	3 kg/ha
Grasslands Sensation red clover	4 kg/ha

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## b) Hardier Perennial Pasture Mix – Dairy/Beef/Sheep/Deer

In environments where conditions are marginal for the persistence of hybrid perennials, such as moderate to low soil fertility and overgrazed sites, some true perennials can be included in the mix.

**Supreme<sup>PLUS</sup>** in this mix has the role of providing medium-term high quality feed, with boosts to early-spring growth.

**Supreme<sup>PLUS</sup>** and Samson perennial ryegrasses have proved to be good companion species in this situation.

Grasslands <b>Supreme<sup>PLUS</sup></b> long rotation ryegrass	7 kg/ha
Grasslands Samson perennial ryegrass	12 kg/ha
Grasslands Tribute white clover	4 kg/ha
<b>Total</b>	<b>23 kg/ha</b>