

Kotuku Oversow

Oversowing clover seed in spring is a great way to get more white clover into pastures. And *Kotuku* is particularly suited to oversowing as it is very fast establishing, with superior summer growth.

Why oversow clover?

Many paddocks today contain too few clover plants. As long as the causes of this are identified and rectified, oversowing seed will help restore pasture clover content.

Grazing ruminants prefer eating clover, and it has exceptional feed quality. Clover is also an important source of protein in summer when pastures are often deficient.

Clover can fix 25 kg of nitrogen (N) out of the atmosphere for every tonne of dry matter grown per ha (t DM/ha), improving pasture growth and quality for no cost. In pastures with 10% clover growing 15 t DM/ha, that equates to 37.5 kg N/year. At 30% clover content this rises to 112.5 kg N/year.

Where does oversowing fit?

- New pastures, sown in autumn with ryegrass seed only (i.e. no clover seed was sown so the paddock needs clover!)
- Existing pastures with poor or no clover content.

Helpful tip: Highlight poor clover paddocks on a farm map. These photos below will help you assess relative clover content in different paddocks. .



Estimated 0% clover content.



Estimated 5-10% clover content.



Estimated 20-30% clover content.

Preparation

Before oversowing existing pasture, it is essential to identify what caused clover to run out in the first place. Lack of fertility, sowing technique and broadleaf weed herbicides are common issues. Check soil and herbage test results. To thrive, clover needs 16 key nutrients; phosphorus (P), potassium (K), sulphur (S) and molybdenum (Mo) are critical. It also needs the right soil pH – 5.8 to 6.2.

If there is a history of poor clover, herbage test any clover plants present for more accurate information about micronutrients.

Use coated seed

Kotuku AGRICOTE Oversow is ideal as it contains key nutrients for establishment, and has a zero grazing withholding period.

This coating uses lime to increase seed weight so seeds spin on more evenly and achieve better soil contact. It mixes with fertiliser or other materials better, and the coating protects the seed from burn when sowing with fertiliser.

Kotuku

Kotuku is ideal for oversowing as it is very fast establishing, a key success factor for this technique. *Kotuku* is a nutritious, high yielding large leaved white clover with superior summer growth, and higher yield for extra N fixation.

When and how?

Best results come from spinning seed on at 5-6 kg/ha from late August to October no more than 3 days before grazing. This is 2.5-3 kg/ha actual clover seed.

Oversowing 1-2 days before grazing allows stock to 'harrow' the seed for good soil contact. Seed can also be spun on a day or two after grazing, ideally following a good even grazing. In this situation harrowing afterward can improve the results.

After oversowing

Clover seedlings need lots of light to grow properly. Grass must not be allowed to get too long for the next 2 grazings after oversowing. This is the single biggest success factor for oversowing clover. Oversown paddocks should not be cut for silage. Keep grazings short, to prevent preferential over-grazing of newly established seedlings.

