Pasture & Forage News



No chance to sow until now? No worries!

If you feel stuck in slow gear with autumn pasture renewal this year, you're not alone. The weather has not been helpful.

So rather than run the risk of sowing perennial ryegrass a little too late, why not try a different approach?

Short term cultivars jump out of the ground at soil temperatures that make perennials sit and sulk. Sure, they won't last as long. But when renewal runs late, as it has this year in some areas, they're often the better investment.

Why? Because perennials need time to establish well in autumn. Late sowing increases the chance of a poor start, and a poor start rarely ends with strong pasture.

Plan B

Swap your planned perennial cultivars for hybrids and you won't have to worry about a poor start if you're still waiting to get autumn grass in. You won't have to worry about growing enough feed in the seasons ahead, either.

Hybrids get going faster than perennials in the first place, even more so in cool conditions. Plus

they grow more grass during the cooler months than most perennials.

So you'll have time to nip them off, spray for weeds if necessary, and let the ground settle after cultivation. That puts you back in box seat for growth during winter and spring.

What's the catch?

Using hybrids instead of perennials for late autumn renewal will give you an energy-rich grass crop for the next one to five years, depending on your cultivar and management.

Shogun NEA12 will last for one to three years; Forge NEA three to five years. After that, you will have to renew again.

But the alternative is to risk late perennial establishment, and weak, slow new pastures that never reach their full potential. Is it not worth asking yourself which will give the best return on investment? Our team can help you weigh up the options – contact us anytime.