



DRY SOWING FOR SOUTHERN FARMERS

Dry sowing may be an option for southern farmers experiencing delayed autumn breaks. One of the greatest benefits to dry sowing is that it maximises the length of the growing season, allowing seedlings to become established early and providing valuable fast feed in the winter months.

Dry sowing before the break requires forward planning to ensure the best results, and these simple tips can improve success.

PASTURE PARTNERS MAXIMISING HOME-GROWN FEED

1 PICK YOUR PADDOCKS

Dry sowing is most likely to be successful in paddocks with low residual pasture growth and limited weed burden. Limiting weed competition is important to emerging seedlings.

2 CHOOSE FAST ESTABLISHING SPECIES

Dry sowing before the break limits herbicide options for the control of early-germinating weeds, therefore it is important to choose species with quick early-growth to outcompete any weeds.

Annual ryegrasses and forage cereals are fast-establishing varieties that are suitable for dry sowing.

3 CHECK YOUR SEED DEPTH

Sowing into dry soils means that plants experience warmer soil conditions and good early vigour once adequate moisture is achieved. However, it is important to ensure that your seed is sown deep enough to protect it from drying out. For some species such as oats, aim to sow 10–15mm (approximately half an inch) deeper than the normal sowing rate to ensure adequate seed coverage.

Dry sowing can be undertaken with your usual seeding machinery.

PRODUCTS TO CONSIDER FOR DRY SOWING IN SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA

HOGAN ANNUAL RYEGRASS



Hogan annual ryegrass is designed for farmers looking for bigger pasture yields and superior late season quality. Hogan is suitable for grazing, hay or silage and offers superior quality later into the season.

Key features

- Tetraploid annual ryegrass
- Late flowering (+22 days to Tetila)
- Fast establishment
- Good winter growth
- Very high total pasture yield.

FUZE **NEW** ANNUAL RYEGRASS



Fuze offers farmers excellent winter growth as well as huge total pasture yields over the entire growing season. Fuze is suitable for grazing, hay or silage. Grow more home-grown feed with Fuze.

Key features

- Diploid annual ryegrass
- Late flowering (+17 days to Tetila)
- Quick to first grazing
- High winter production
- Exception total pasture yield.

EXPRESS FORAGE OATS



Express is a high-performance forage oat variety bred and developed by Heritage Seeds. It is ideal for farmers seeking more forage yield in grazing, or for hay/silage situations.

Key features

- Late maturity
- Early growth is quick and vigorous
- High spring and overall dry matter yield
- Excellent recovery from grazing
- Finely tillered
- Good BYDV tolerance.

PROTECT YOUR PASTURES AGAINST PESTS

There are several known pests that can impact the success of dry sowing. Monitor your paddocks regularly to identify any possible pest threats and undertake appropriate pest management strategies prior to planting.

African Black Beetles

African black beetle (*Heteronychus arator*), is native to southern Africa.

Adults are black and approximately 12–14mm in length. This beetle can affect pasture establishment by feeding on stems and roots, near or just under the soil surface. They are known to attack newly-sown ryegrass and perennial grasses. Less of a threat to oats.



Red-legged Earth Mites

The red-legged earth mite (RLEM) (*Halotydeus destructor*) is a major pest of pastures in regions with cool wet winters and hot dry summers. Adults are 1mm in length (size of a pin head) with 8 red-orange legs and a black velvety body. RLEM feeding reduces the productivity of established plants and is associated with a reduction in pasture palatability to livestock.



Image: Cesar Australia

Seed coating technologies can also be used to provide extra protection and enhance seed establishment.

PONCHO® FILM COAT

Poncho® Plus insecticide is designed to protect seedlings from the attack of biting and sucking insects for up to four weeks during establishment. It also offers 'stress shield' benefits, which help to protect treated plants during extended dry periods. Poncho® Film Coat also includes a fungicide, which protects the seed against fungal diseases.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Our team of experienced Territory Managers are ready to provide you with specialist advice.

START A CONVERSATION TODAY.

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GROW WITH CONFIDENCE

INSIST ON THE YELLOW BAG

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