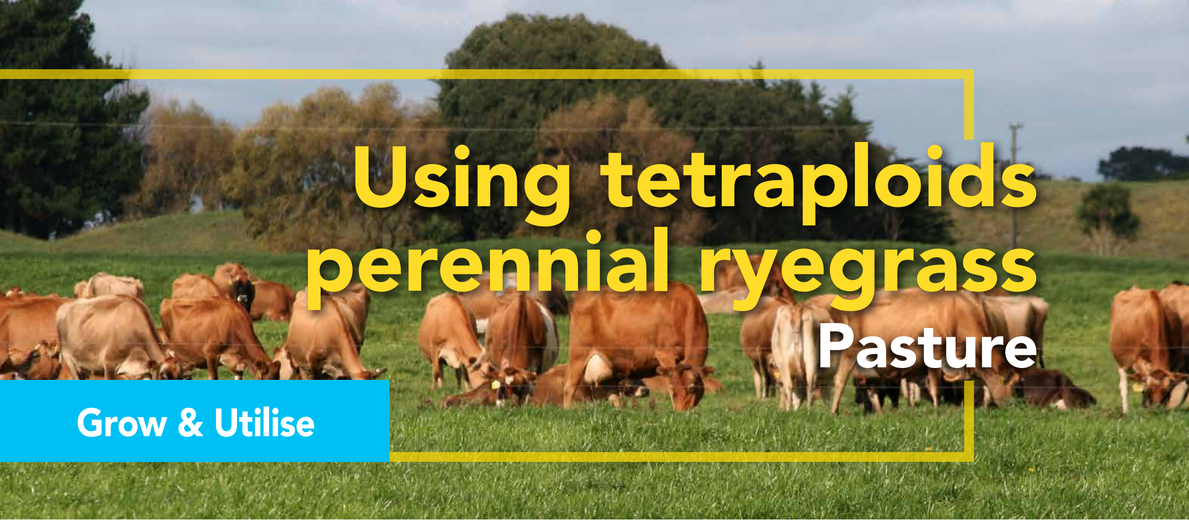


Using tetraploids perennial ryegrass

Pasture

Grow & Utilise

Tetraploid perennial ryegrasses (e.g. *4front*) are more palatable, easier to graze and can increase per animal and per ha performance.

Tetraploid perennials do not suit every farm - they are less robust and need good management to persist. Mixing tetraploids with diploids can work well (see Mixing tetraploid & diploid ryegrass).

Benefits of tetraploids

Tetraploid perennial ryegrasses are a powerful tool to lift animal performance. Dairy farmers typically find milk production rises on tetraploid paddocks, and lamb finishers achieve faster LWG. Advantages of tetraploids vs. diploids include:

- Animals love them.
- Higher per head performance.
- Higher covers, and increased DM yield, because tetraploids remain palatable longer (see Principles of ryegrass grazing).
- Better environmental outcomes (see Improving environmental outcomes).
- Higher utilisation, driving better per ha production
- Higher ME (by 0.25 MJ ME/kg DM) and WSC content than diploids.

BUT not for all systems

Tetraploids don't suit all systems. They are more palatable, with fewer tillers than diploids, so they need to be better looked after to persist well. Tetraploids are less suited to:

- Wet farms with heavy soils - they are more susceptible to treading damage.

- Large farms where the owner(s) want every paddock the same to keep the system simple.
- Difficult, dry situations where persistence is key (a robust diploid cultivar will probably suit best).
- Farms with very high Argentine stem weevil (ASW) damage; ASW prefer tetraploids.

Getting the best out of tetraploids

Take extra care with tetraploids to avoid pugging or treading damage by cattle, especially behind break fences. During extended dry periods, avoid prolonged setstocking or repeated grazing with all ryegrasses, but particularly with tetraploids. Their palatability means they can be easily over grazed.



Here sheep have shown much greater preference for a plot of tetraploid ryegrass over other perennial ryegrasses.

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