

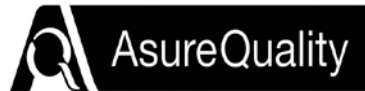
AYT Trial System

Objective

The Advanced Yield Trials system (AYT) is a comprehensive trial network delivering meaningful information to help ryegrass variety decisions.

The AYT system tests the widest range of ryegrass varieties, as soon as they become available. Tests are nationwide, with trials in the key regions of Waikato, Taranaki, Manawatu, Hawkes Bay, Canterbury and Southland.

Auditing



AsureQuality independently audits all AYT trials.

AsureQuality visits all AYT trials each year, to make sure they are designed and run to industry accepted scientific protocols. Statistical analysis of final results is also audited by AsureQuality. Trials must pass all inspection to be included in these results.

Independent trial operators

The trials in the AYT system are run by a range of organisations and individuals. Thanks must go to the following:



Runs trials at Newstead in the central Waikato under dairy cow grazing.



Runs trials at the Whareroa Research Farm close to Hawera under dairy cow grazing.



Runs trials close to its campus at Palmerston North, under dairy cow and sheep grazing.



Runs trials at its Poukawa Farm and in the local area of Hawkes Bay, under sheep grazing.



Is running a trial at its campus in Canterbury, under sheep grazing.

RURAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Runs trials at Winton, Southland under sheep grazing.

Agriseeds also runs a number of AYT trials in Waikato, Canterbury and Southland.

Five seasons

The AYT trials are analysed using five seasons, with the traditional 'spring' period split into 'early spring' and 'late spring', to give more meaningful information for farm systems. Seasons are:

- Autumn: March, April and May
- Winter: June and July
- Early spring: August and September
- Late spring: October and November
- Summer: December, January and February

Trial management

All varieties in each trial are treated equally. Trials are run under moderate-high soil fertility, with the equivalent of around 100 kgN/ha/year applied, and rotationally grazed when the highest yielding entry reaches about 2500 kg DM/ha.

Prior to each grazing a yield cut is taken, totalling 10-13 yield cuts/year depending on weather, with DM samples analysed for every plot. Post grazing, trials are trimmed if any unevenness in grazing has occurred.



Grazing trial at Kirwee



Grazing after yield assessment



Dry conditions, summer Hawkes Bay



Italian ryegrass evaluation at Gore