

Summary

- *Agricote Grass* helps fast, even establishment by protecting grass seedlings against insect pests and the fungi causing damping off.

Insect protection

Agricote Grass provides protection against both Argentine stem weevil (ASW) and black beetle.

ASW can be a major pest, particularly in grass to grass renewal or early autumn sowing in dryland environments. In these cases it is important to protect all grasses - annual, Italian, hybrid and perennial ryegrasses as well as tall fescue.

Black beetle can cause significant establishment problems in the upper and coastal North Island, particularly in drier seasons.

In a trial conducted by AgResearch, *Tabu* seedlings were exposed to black beetle. The results below show that *Poncho*, *Agricote Grass*, and *Ultrastrike* give the best protection, with twice the survival of untreated seed.

Seedling survival under black beetle pressure*

Seed treatment	Seedling survival
<i>Poncho</i>	88% a
<i>Agricote Grass</i>	82% ab
<i>Ultrastrike</i>	82% ab
<i>Gaicho</i>	77% b
<i>Superstrike</i>	76% b
<i>Untreated</i>	41% c

*Trial run by AgResearch Ruakura. Treatments were all *Tabu* ryegrass. SED (7.8%) lettering given, treatments with the same letter are not significantly different.

Fungal pathogens

Agricote Grass contains fungicides that are active against the fungi responsible for ‘damping off’ (*Fusarium* and *Pythium*).

Sowing Rate

Agricote Grass has no effect on seed weight, therefore, normal sowing rates should be used.

Withholding period

42 day withholding period applies.

Seed treatment comparison

Seed Treatment	Insect protection			Fungal pathogens	
	ASW	Black beetle	Grass grub	<i>Fusarium</i>	<i>Pythium</i>
<i>Agricote</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓
<i>Superstrike</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓
<i>Ultrastrike</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Gaicho</i>		✓	✓		
<i>Poncho</i>	✓	✓	✓		