Brome grasses (pasture brome, prairie grass, grazing brome)

Introduction

Brome grasses are perennial plant species suited to free draining soils of moderate to high fertility, particularly in lower rainfall areas. They do not persist well on poorly drained soils.

They are palatable, including their seed heads, and offer good quality feed and persistence. Bromes are slower than ryegrass to establish and should be sown in warm conditions (late summer/early autumn or spring), into a well consolidated seedbed.

Brome grasses are all quite different species (not just different cultivars). They range from the erect prairie grass (*Bromus willdenowii*) which is the least persistent and best suited to rotational grazing, and medium erect pasture brome (*Bromus valdivianus*), to finer leaved grazing brome (*Bromus stamineus*) which is most suited to set stocking.

Brome grasses do not contain endophyte.

Brome grass cultivars

Pasture brome

Bareno

Bareno pasture brome is a standout permanent pasture for summer dry free-draining soils. In these situations it is more persistent than perennial ryegrass, is palatable, high yielding and legume-friendly. *Bareno* can be rotationally grazed or set stocked, and is 19 days later heading than *Gala*, with better late spring quality and summer growth.

Grazing brome

Grasslands Gala

Gala grazing brome is a fine leaved, densely tillered species with good winter production. *Gala* performs best under set stocking systems.

Prairie grass

Ceres Atom

Atom is a prairie grass, the same species as *Matua*. *Atom* was bred for a greater tiller density than *Matua*, improving its persistence under grazing.

Grasslands Matua

Matua prairie grass is an erect broad leaved cultivar which has limited persistence under intensive grazing, and should only be used in rotational grazing or cutting systems. *Matua* has good winter production.