

Seedbed consolidation

Summary

A firm seedbed will greatly improve pasture establishment, particularly for white clover.

Clover establishment

Seedbed consolidation conserves moisture and makes it easier to achieve the right sowing depth.

Research in the Manawatu showed sowing with a V-roller into a well-consolidated seedbed gave 50% better white clover establishment than sowing into a poorly consolidated seedbed.

Clover seedlings at establishment*

Lightly consolidated	Well consolidated
240/m ²	375/m ²

*Proceedings NZ Grasslands Association 67 (2005): p35-39. Brock J. *et. al.*

In this case a Cambridge roller was weighted with concrete posts, to compact the soil until the roll form held under normal walking pressure.

This research also highlighted the bad practice of using rubber wheeled rollers, which do not compact the soil as well as a Cambridge roller.

The particular consolidation technique for every farm will vary.

Consolidation at establishment

This picture illustrates how poor seedbed consolidation can cause slow and uneven establishment of new pastures.



Poorly consolidated.

Well consolidated.