



# Quick Winter Feed Options



**Wrightson Seeds**

# Winter feed – our research findings

Wrightson Seeds, in response to the needs of farmers for quick winter feed, has undertaken exciting research to identify the best sowing options for quick winter feed.

**Options for an early break can be vastly different to those used for a late break.**

**The key finding is that there are a range of different sowing options depending on:**

- the time of season that soil moisture becomes available
- the soil temperature gradient at time of germination and for the subsequent period of early growth
- regional location, as soil temperatures vary widely between regions
- the variety sown, as the rate of growth (kgDM/day) varies greatly between varieties with declining soil temperatures
- each varieties minimum soil temperature threshold for good winter growth

## Research overview:

- Forage brassicas have very fast growth rates in warm soils however, growth rates are slower than grasses as soil temperatures drop
- Following an early break, Appin leafy turnip produced more dry matter than everything else in the research
- Forage ryecorn (Southern Green) can be sown early as well as late. It is less dependant on timing as its growth rate (kgDM/day) is less affected as temperatures drop
- When the break is very late, forage ryecorn (Southern Green) may produce nearly 3 times the dry matter per hectare of forage oats (Wintaroo) at first grazing. See photos below.

**55 DAYS FROM SOWING** SOWING DATE 21/04/08



Southern Green ryecorn 686 Kg/ha



Wintaroo oats 270 Kg/ha

**Southern Green forage ryecorn**

**Wintaroo forage oats**



## FORAGE BRASSICAS



## FORAGE RYECORN



Leafy turnip with very high growth rates in warm soils. Sow early.

### Key points for winter growth:

- fastest growth rate option following an early break
- sowing brassicas (Appin) early will give the quickest winter feed however, after 2–3 grazings Appin will bolt and be ready for resowing with triticale or sorghum
- sowing brassicas with annual or italian ryegrass, or oats enable quick winter feed that can be followed by a spring ryegrass or oat crop if conditions are favourable



Southern Green forage ryecorn can be ready for grazing 3 weeks before oats.

### Key points for winter growth:

- best option for quick winter feed particularly if sowing is late
- after 3 to 4 grazings, forage ryecorn is likely to have thinned out and require a resowing with brassica for spring feed
- under favourable conditions, can be sown with Nourish® italian ryegrass to extend spring growth





## FORAGE OATS



### High yielding forage oat.

#### Key points for winter growth:

- ryecorn complements sowing oats i.e. a ryecorn paddock for winter feed, an oat paddock for spring feed
- consider one paddock of forage ryecorn for every 3 to 4 oat paddocks. Forage ryecorn for fast growth to first grazing, oats for spring feed
- although slower to first grazing than forage ryecorn, Coo-ee™ provides extended grazing, silage and hay options



## ITALIAN RYEGRASS



### New italian ryegrass. High winter-spring growth rates.

#### Key points for winter growth:

- Nourish® or Feast®II italian ryegrasses are the best choices where good winter growth, spring yield and extended quality is needed
- establishes easily from oversowing or mulch sowings
- persists, enabling quick regrowth from summer and autumn showers



# Winter-spring sowing options to maximise feed

Indicative month and soil temperatures for sowing varieties

## LEGEND

max°C **SOW** min°C Variety Max-Min soil temps: ideal shown in deep color

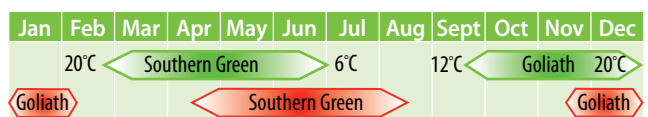
**GRAZE** Grazing period

**FORAGE BRASSICAS** The soil temperature range for sowing forage brassicas is between 20°C and 12°C. Fast growth rates and germination decreases as soil temperatures drop below 12°C. Appin sown alone will finish after 2-3 grazings and require a resowing in spring. Consider spring sowing with Monstress or Granador forage triticale. Good soil fertility is essential.



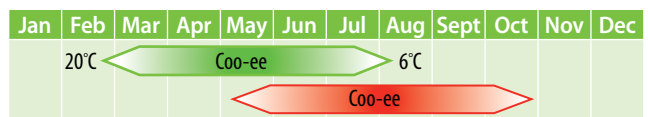
Appin sowing rate 2–4 kg/ha Granador sowing rate 60–120 kg/ha

**FORAGE RYECORN** Forage ryecorn can be grazed three week earlier than oats, especially when sown late into cold conditions. Forage ryecorn is also well suited for sowing early into warm soils. Ryecorn sown alone may finish after 2-3 grazings and require a resowing in spring. Consider resowing in spring with Goliath® forage rape.



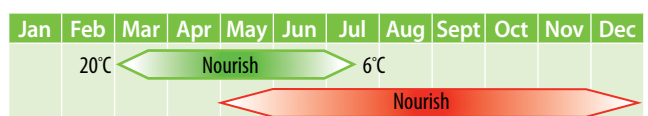
Southern Green sowing rate 60–100 kg/ha Goliath sowing rate 2–4 kg/ha

**FORAGE OATS** The benefit of oats is their versatility. They can provide good winter feed and early spring fodder. New Coo-ee™ forage oat is a fast winter growing oat with good early spring yield.



Coo-ee™ sowing rate 40–120 kg/ha

**ANNUAL OR ITALIAN RYEGRASS** Sown in early autumn, ryegrass will provide better quality and extended growth than oats. For a late autumn sowing however, oats provide much quicker winter feed. Nourish®, Feast®II and Winter Star®II ryegrasses are quick growing, each offering a full growing season of feed.



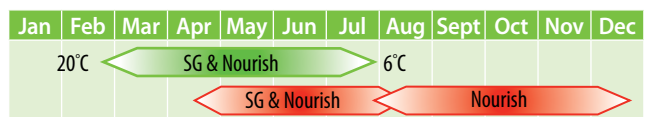
Ryegrass sowing rate 25–40 kg/ha

**FORAGE BRASSICA AND ITALIAN RYEGRASS** Under favorable conditions, a good choice when the break is early and spring resowing is not a preferred option. Appin leafy turnip will provide the bulk of the feed for an early grazing. The ryegrass will tiller out filling in the space left as the Appin is grazed out. The result is fast winter feed, followed by an early-spring ryegrass crop.



Brassica sowing rate 1–2 kg/ha Ryegrass 25–50 kg/ha

**RYECORN AND ITALIAN RYEGRASS** Under favorable conditions, a good choice when the break is late and spring resowing is not a preferred option. Southern Green (SG) will grow well in cold winter conditions for an early grazing. The ryegrass will tiller out to fill in any space left by a declining ryecorn stand, ryegrass providing the bulk of spring feed.



Southern Green sowing rate 40–100 kg/ha Ryegrass 10–25 kg/ha

# Guide to soil temperature for selected regions

Monthly soil temperature averages °C at 9am 10 cm depth

Station Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Vic - East Gippsland (SALE)	20°C	20°C	18°C	15°C	11°C	9°C	8°C	9°C	11°C	14°C	17°C	18°C
Vic - Western Vic (HAMILTON)	19°C	20°C	17°C	13°C	11°C	8°C	7°C	8°C	10°C	12°C	14°C	17°C
Vic - Northern Vic (KYABRAM)	23°C	23°C	20°C	16°C	11°C	9°C	7°C	8°C	11°C	15°C	18°C	22°C
Vic - South west (WEEAPROINAH)	16°C	16°C	15°C	12°C	10°C	8°C	7°C	7°C	8°C	10°C	13°C	15°C
NSW Northern Tablelands (GLEN INNES)	21°C	21°C	19°C	15°C	11°C	7°C	5°C	6°C	10°C	14°C	17°C	20°C
NSW Central Highlands (ORANGE)	21°C	20°C	18°C	14°C	9°C	6°C	5°C	6°C	9°C	13°C	16°C	19°C
NSW Hunter Valley (SCONE)	24°C	24°C	22°C	18°C	14°C	11°C	10°C	11°C	14°C	17°C	20°C	23°C
NSW SW Slopes (WAGGA WAGGA)	24°C	24°C	21°C	16°C	12°C	9°C	8°C	9°C	11°C	15°C	19°C	22°C
Tas (CRESSY)	18°C	18°C	15°C	11°C	8°C	6°C	5°C	6°C	8°C	11°C	14°C	17°C

Source: Bureau of Meteorology (Averages from last 25 to 50 yrs).

## Plan your feed requirements now by contacting a member of our National Sales Agronomy Team



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