

# Runner II Lucerne

A true grazing Lucerne



Runner II at Christopher Grays property, Peter Miller

**Runner II** is a winter-hardy, 2 dormancy, fine stemmed creeping Lucerne. Forage quality is high, with very good leaf to stem ratios, i.e. high utilization. Excellent ground cover, i.e. less weeds  
Excellent companion species with selected grass and herbs. Very low crown.

**Further information is provided on our website [www.kiwiseed.co.nz](http://www.kiwiseed.co.nz)**

Appendix 1: Dryland Pastoral Research at Ashley Dene by Prof D. Moot, Dr A. Mills, Mr M. Smith  
Grazing Lucerne Management trials—ongoing Research Project Lincoln University

[www.lincoln.ac.nz/dryland](http://www.lincoln.ac.nz/dryland)

Appendix 2 'The Falcata Gene' brief history. The importance of *M. falcata* in a grazing Lucerne plant. You be the Judge.

# Runner II Lucerne a genetic advancement

Runner II is the only known Lucerne with the Medicago Falcata gene on the NZ market (Appendix 2).

Creeping Lucerne like some grasses have the ability to renew themselves by the development of new tillers or plants. Standard Lucerne varieties do not have this ability. Consequently, Lucerne stands thin and become weedy and grass infested. Creeping Lucerne's have this renewal ability by developing new plants from root buds.

**Runner** has proven over a 10 year period in NZ to tolerate a mixed species pasture better than any previous Lucerne cultivar thanks to the Falcata gene (Appendix 2). Genetic material is from the USA, seed is produced in Marlborough by growers under contract to Kiwi Seed Co (Marlborough) Ltd.

## Where to use Runner II

- Use for hay or rotational grazing, where very long-term or permanent stands are desired.
- Where grazing will be a major use.
- Under 2 cut management.
- As a companion legume with selected grasses.
- Under drought conditions.
- Where disease pressure is high.
- Where there has been a problem establishing or maintaining a stand (except where limited by pH or fertility).
- Winter dormancy 2, means a slow spring start up. This only complements other companion species within the pasture



## Establishment and Grazing Management

- Purchase seed that has been inoculated with appropriate inoculant Group AL.
- Direct sowing or direct drilled with depth not more than 10 mm, best sown in spring.
- 9-10 kg as a pure stand or 5 kg in a Non-Ryegrass mix.
- Establishes quickly, strong seedling vigor.
- Graze lightly until plants are established.
- When stands begin to thin, allow the last cutting to go to full bloom to thicken up the stands.

## Grower comments:

Colin Drummond 'Erewhon Station' Ashburton Gorge—High Country Sheep & Beef Farmer

"Runner II Lucerne was sown on river flats at 'Erewhon Station' almost 10 years ago. We use the Runner II Lucerne for grazing and one cut of hay per annum. Our inputs are low, for fertiliser a natural mineral mix is applied and weed sprays or aphid sprays have never been used. Amazingly the stand is getting better and stronger each year."

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