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NEWSLETTER

April 2022

Mixed Species Pasture

David Musgrave, agronomist, practical farmer from Geraldine is our inspiration and adviser for the establishment and maintenance of Mixed Species pasture.

David comments: As with ryegrass the success or otherwise of Mixed species pasture hinges on selecting the correct variety to match your requirements and when you need it most. Selection of grass and legume pasture should be based on the needs of the animal and expected soil moisture.



No soil moisture, no pasture.

For example, Marlborough can often be in moisture deficit by late October. Traditionally farmers lamb early June/July, start drafting in October and finish the tail end lambs on rape. In this situation, early flowering grasses and clovers would be the key to increased productivity, better lamb weights, better returns. 300 grams per lamb per day—that's the target. 70% of your pasture would need to be legume. October/November/December, these are the critical profit making months. Ignore this at your peril. Don't be landed with any old pasture seed mix, buy one that works.

MUD FEVER

Winter and early spring is the time of year for mud fever. This is a skin infection caused by an organism called *Dermatophilus congolensis* which lives in the soil. In winter, the skin is softened by rain and mud. Continual wetting and drying causes the skin to chap and allows the bacteria to enter. Muddy conditions are not always necessary; wounds or grazes can also allow the bacteria to penetrate.

Symptoms

Mud fever is recognized by scabs, a crusty exudate, and matted hair. It is usually seen around the coronet, heels and pastern, although scabs may form anywhere. It is more common on white legs with pink skin. In severe cases it can cause the legs to swell up and the horse may become lame.

Treatment

Treatment of mud fever should be vigorous and immediate. It is important to remove all scabs and exudate as these harbour the bacteria. Removing the scabs can be uncomfortable for a horse, so it helps to first soften the scabs with warm soapy water and then clean down to healthy skin using a dilute antiseptic solution such as iodine or anti fungal wash. In severe cases, poulticing may be required to soften the scabs. Afterwards ensure that the leg is thoroughly dried.

Once dried, an antibiotic cream such as Lincoln Muddy Buddy Ointment should be applied twice daily. The scabs and crusts will reform rapidly therefore it will be necessary to repeat the antiseptic wash daily until the legs are completely healed.

If the legs becomes swollen or the horse becomes lame, then veterinary attention is needed. Severe cases may require a course of antibiotics and anti-inflammatories.

Prevention

Allowing the legs to dry after exercise, followed by brushing off any mud appears to be the best management practice. If your horse acquires minor scabs on the legs, a close watch should be kept to ensure that they do not develop into mud fever. This condition is much easier to treat if it is recognized early!



*Sow wildflowers now
for early spring colour
and bee fodder.*

Small packets available
in store.



*The cold weather encourages the
rats and mice to come inside.
Keep them out with our range
of baits and traps available in
store.*

Out in the garden

April

Autumn is the best time to plant new trees and shrubs including roses, so they can get established over the cooler winter months. Prepare new planting sites now with Daltons Compost.

Remove spent summer flowering annuals and plant your favourite winter flowers. For best results, prepare the soil by digging in Daltons Compost and Daltons Landscape Pellets.

When planting out your spring bulbs, remember to fertilise with Bone Flour for the best blooms in Spring.

Once all fruit trees are harvested, spray pip and stone fruit trees with a Copper spray to protect against leaf curl, leaf blight, leaf spots, downy mildew, black spot and verrucosis.

Giving your winter vege patch a rest over winter? Add nutrients back in the soil by sowing a crop of blue lupin, mustard seed or black oats which adds nitrogen and improves soil structure.

Feed citrus trees with Kiwi Seed Citrus Fert to promote strong healthy Autumn growth.

Sow seeds of beetroot, broccoli, broad beans, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, onions, radish, spinach, swedes and turnips directly into your garden bed. Check out our range of seeds in store.

This is the best month for sowing a new lawn or repairing your existing. We have a great range of lawn seed in store.

Daltons Landscape Pellets—Everything your garden needs in one bag!

Daltons Landscape Pellets.

A convenient, pelletised form of boosted compost containing 7 sources of natural nutrients enhanced with conventional fertilisers.

- * Increases organic matter in the soil profile
- * Pelletised easy to spread formulation
- * Improves soil cation exchange capacity
- * Improves soil water and nutrient retention
 - * Improves soil microbial activity
 - * Suitable for all soil types

- * Contains Zeolite which acts as a mineral sponge absorbing and releasing nutrients within the soil profile



Support 'The Ward Boundary Riders' Agri Kids Team to get to the Grand Final in Whangarei.

For every Kiwi Seed Layers Pellets 25kg purchased in April, we will donate \$1 to the kids to get them to Whangarei.

Help us to support them by feeding your chickens our locally made, quality layers pellets.



Samuel Showman

Duck shooting special available at Kiwi Seed

Barley, Ryecorn, popcorn, oats.

Availability depending on supply of grains.

We would like to do our bit for the environment by sending out our accounts and newsletters via email.

Please subscribe by emailing us at info@kiwiseed.co.nz.

You can also use the same address to unsubscribe from the newsletter if you wish.

Thank you from all at Kiwi Seed.