

# Forage Newsletter

## CONTENTS

### RESEEDING

€1,000-2,000 MORE MILK PER HA FROM  
YOUNG GRASS

### OVERSEEDING WITH ISEED®



### ForageMax Worldwide

Worldwide ForageMax leads the way to better returns from grassland - the optimal output of a grass field only occurs when the right mixture is chosen for the job. And furthermore, the chosen mixture must consist of the best adapted varieties for the purpose and location.

The large number of ForageMax mixtures from DLF-TRIFOLIUM are all composed with regard to the local requirements for yield, quality, winter hardiness, drought tolerance, etc. And they all consist of high ranking varieties that have proved their value under local conditions.

The ForageMax brand is now marketed in more than 25 countries around the world and we are continuously looking for new and better performing varieties and new mixture solutions in order to fulfil the desires from our customers.

Our intensive breeding programmes and extended number of development trials are the basis for this work.

Please contact your DLF-TRIFOLIUM sales person to learn more about the best ForageMax solutions for you and your costumers.

## €1,000-2,000 more milk per Ha from young grass

In a typical grass field, yield will decrease over time. This is a natural consequence of climate, intensive use and the ageing of plants. As a consequence, weed grasses will increasingly take over from the highly productive sown species and varieties. There are two main routes to cope with these challenges:

- Reseeding
- Overseeding

### Reseeding – the ultimate solution

In a normal sward, up to 20% of the yield can be lost in the first two or three years of use. This equates to a large loss per hectare every year in terms of reduced animal output of either meat or milk.

Measurements show that after 5-8 years around 40% of a typical sward consists of unsown species. In such cases the quality of the sward also falls, and with it the performance of the animals. This is partly because less grass is produced and partly because the nutritional value of weeds and native grasses are poorer than that of the purpose-bred grass species. This combination of lower yield and lower quality in these situations can reduce animal output by over 50%.

### Why it pays to reseed

A farmer who is reseeding a 3-5 year old grass field will experience a number of benefits:

- A large increase in the energy output from the field → lower costs per harvested MJ and more animals per hectare
- An increase in the forage quality → higher digestibility and higher animal intake
- A higher animal output → higher income and profit

## THE OUTPUT OF RESEEDING

	OLD FIELD	NEW FIELD	DIFFERENCE
Drymatter, tonnes/ha	9.6	12	2.4
ME, MJ/kg DM	10.5	11	0.5
MJ/ha, total	100,800	132,000	31,200
Litre milk/ha	7,400	13,600	6,200
Milk value, €/ha	2,450	4,500	2,050

Example of yield and quality from new and older grass fields. Animal maintenance requires around 64,000 MJ/ha. The production of one litre of milk requires approx. 5 MJ and the milk price is assumed to be app. 0.33 €/litre.

In this example the outcome of one hectare of new, first year grassland is around €2,000 in the form of more milk - giving the farmer the chance to feed more cows per hectare and ensure a higher supply of homegrown forage for the herd. In year two and three this yield difference will be less, but still significant.

You can find a practical grassland calculator on our website – [www.dlf.com](http://www.dlf.com) under Forage, Technical info. This gives you the opportunity to make your own local estimations of the added value from a new, young grass field.

## Overseeding with iSeed®

Trials at DLF-TRIFOLIUM have also shown that regular overseeding of young grass can prevent the fall of yield in the first place. So just as reseeding can revitalise the fortunes of a field, overseeding can help to maintain the high productivity of a new re-seed throughout the life of the sward.

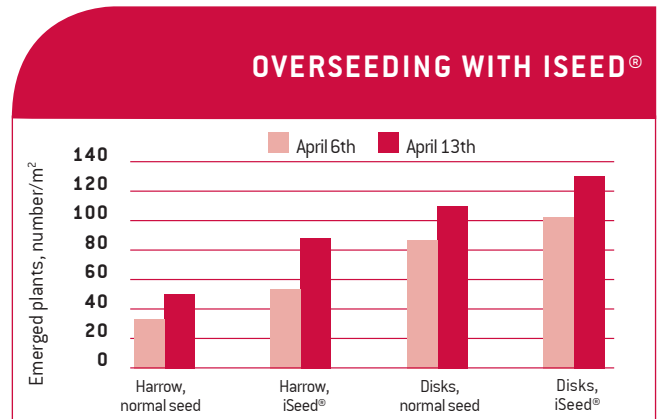
Yield benefits of over 20% compared to control can be demonstrated when a new mixture is overseeded annually as a routine management. In DLF trials yield benefits of over 40% have been achieved when Red Clover and Hybrid Ryegrass have been introduced to a non-clover sward.

The benefits of overseeding are worth over €1,000 per hectare every year in terms of improved animal output.



Overseeding is a simple and low cost operation that can be carried out using any one of the many machines available. From a basic wire tine harrow with seed box to a sophisticated direct drill, the principals are the same. It is essential for the new seeds to have good soil contact and to have enough moisture to germinate and establish whilst minimising the competition from the existing grass.

To assist with this critical stage, DLF has developed iSeed® which is a fertiliser coated seed with sufficient nitrogen and phosphate within the coating to ensure much higher seedling survival rates when compared to untreated seed. The trial results below clearly show the benefits of iSeed® over untreated seed for both common drilling methods.



Number of new emerged plants/m<sup>2</sup> by overseeding in Perennial Ryegrass March 17th 2010. Number of plants was counted April 6th and 13th 2010. A grassland harrow with seeding equipment and Vredo diskdirect driller were used in this trial. Trials in Holland, DLF-TRIFOLIUM.

In essence, when overseeding using the popular wire tine method, trial results show that over 60% more plant can be successfully established using iSeed® rather than untreated seed.

iSeed® is not just about providing nutrients for better establishment as trials have also shown that the benefits of better establishment can be seen well after the establishment period. Trials have also shown a 1T/Ha increase in drymatter yield the year after establishment. The photograph below clearly demonstrates the positive effect of iSeed® compared to untreated seed in the year following establishment.



Keep your grass young by overseeding and ensure greater success with iSeed®.

Because of the massive benefits that can be achieved by overseeding, DLF has produced a comprehensive guide in the form of a short film. This can be sent to you or downloaded from our website and we hope you find it useful in helping you release more potential from your grassland enterprise.

To see the film, please go to [www.dlf.com](http://www.dlf.com) or contact your local sales person.