

Regional Trial Update: Autumn Sowing Decisions



Impact of Sowing Date on Winter Star II Production

In autumn 2019 the impact of two sowing dates (6th March 2019 and 10th April 2019) on Winter Star II production were evaluated. Key findings are presented below:

6th March Sowing

- 63 days to first grazing on the 8th May 2019
- Accumulated 11,281 kgDM/ha to final yield assessment on 31st October 2019

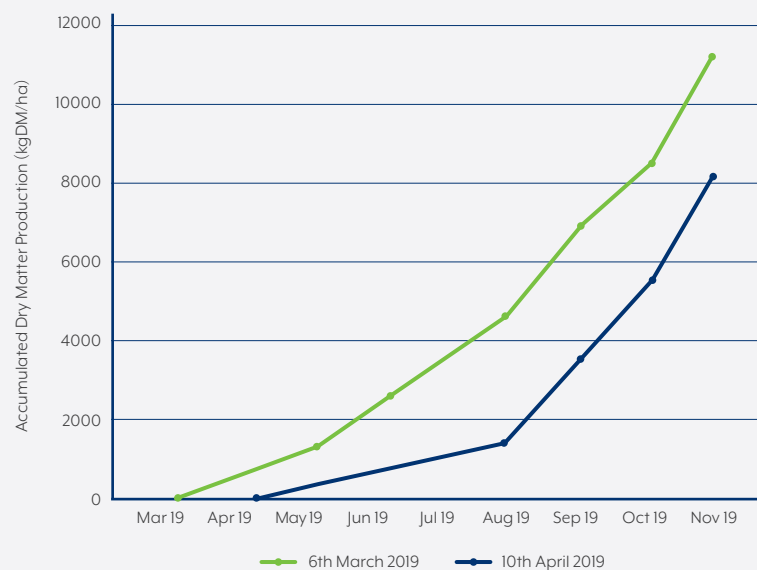
10th April Sowing

- 146 days to first grazing on 30th July 2019 – essentially no grazing until late winter
- Accumulated 8,216 kgDM/ha to final yield assessment on 31st October 2019

From August onwards sowing date had no impact on daily growth rates. Both sowing dates had average daily growth rates of approximately 72 kgDM/ha/day.

Key message is only consider planting annuals in late autumn if feed is not required until late winter / early spring. If significant winter feed is required consider oats or ryecorn for late sowings.

Impact of Sowing Date on Winter Star II Production Lincoln, Canterbury



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Winter Star II vs. Supercruise from Late Sowing

On the 3rd May 2019 a late sown demonstration comparing Winter Star II annual ryegrass and Supercruise Italian ryegrass was established. Key observations from this demonstration are presented below:

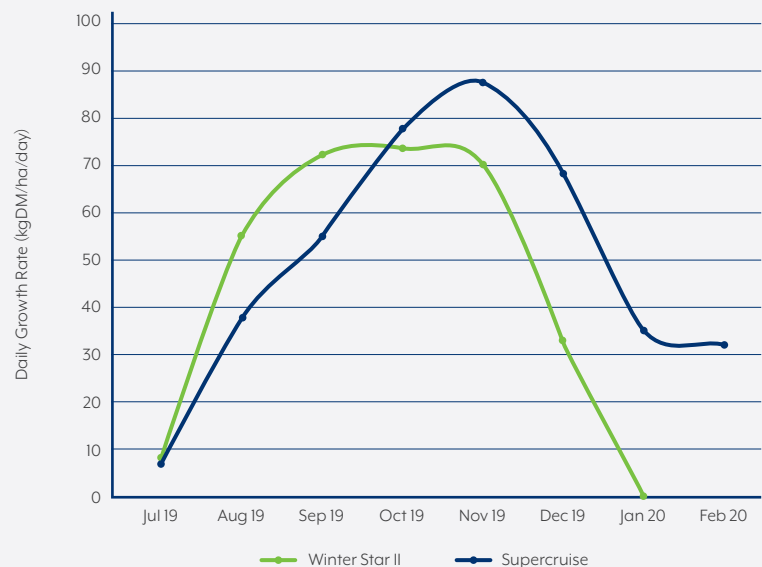
Winter Star II

- Great later winter and early spring production
- Growth slowed in late spring as plants went reproductive and began to die off
- By mid December plant numbers were less than 50%; production was minimal and mostly stem / seed head
- Accumulated 10,256 kgDM/ha to final cut on 24th December (no further production possible)

Supercruise

- Slightly less early season growth than Winter Star II but greater late spring and early summer growth
- Accumulated 12,705 kgDM/ha to latest cut on 9th March with pasture suitable to produce for another 12 months
- To maintain quality during summer stick to tight rotations to avoid plant producing stem and seed head
- Will persist for 18-24 months so can carry through the winter and into next spring

Average Daily Growth Rate of Winter Star II vs Supercruise Lincoln, 2019-2020



Total Accumulated Dry Matter Yield (kgDM/ha) of Winter Star II vs Supercruise, Lincoln, 2019-2020

