

Kidman ^{NEA2} Perennial ryegrass

Pasture grasses



550mm+



4.8–8.0



Most soil types



PBR

Sowing rates

Sow from February - October, when moisture available. Suggested sowing rates below:

750mm+/irrigation: 20–25kg/ha

750–600mm: 15–20kg/ha

<600mm: 10–15kg/ha

Kidman NEA2 is an early maturing densely tillered diploid perennial, suited to sheep & beef grazing enterprises in 550mm/yr. + temperate regions. Kidman with its early maturity and excellent autumn, winter and early spring growth will help to fill critical feed gaps in many farming systems. Combined with a robust 'safe' novel endophyte in NEA2, Kidman is an all round performer for yield, quality and persistence.

Key features

- Early maturing (-9 days relative to Nui)
- Low aftermath heading compared with comparator varieties in segment
- NEA2 endophyte offers broad insect protection and animal safe 'stagger free' grazing
- Excellent autumn, winter & early spring production
- Leafy summer production, unlike Victorian & Kangaroo Valley ecotypes
- Improved utilisation in spring when compared with Victorian SE perennial ryegrass

Key benefits

- The superior growth curve at critical times in late autumn, winter and early spring means reduced need for costly supplementary feed
- The ability to respond to summer rainfall events, results in greater leafy summer production
- Due to low 'aftermath' heading, the quality and utilisation of feed grown in spring is maximised with Kidman. This results in better liveweight performance and returns per hectare
- The combination of NEA2 endophyte provides robust insect protection, aiding persistence, while offering a 'safe' grazing option free of issues like ryegrass staggers & heat stress
- The superior seasonal forage production means greater cheap 'home grown feed', improving carrying capacity and profitability

Application

Kidman performs well where other early maturing perennial ryegrasses, like Victorian and Kangaroo Valley varieties perform, but offers superior growth curves and production. It is ideally suited to temperate regions that exceed 550mm/yr. and where rainfall is more concentrated to autumn, winter and spring, however due to the background breeding of Kidman, it can also provide application in higher rainfall areas where summer production is required. This means it is a highly adaptable cultivar. Kidman is ideally suited to many sheep and beef grazing systems, both autumn and spring calving/lambing however does also have application into dryland dairy systems. An example of Kidman's performance is evident in the Dairy Australia Forage Value Index¹, where it is one of the highest performing cultivars. Kidman has been upgraded from AR1 to NEA2 to provide greater insect protection, and persistence, while still providing safe 'stagger free' grazing option.

Agronomy and management

Graze when seedlings resist pulling and tearing the leaves. The best time is typically 8–10 weeks after sowing, but at earliest opportunity to allow light into the base of the pasture thus encouraging tiller and clover development. It also makes a good companion for most pasture legumes including white, strawberry, sub and annual clovers. Usually sow 80% grass by seed count, 20% clovers by seed count. It is best sown as the only grass species, due to out-competing other slow establishing species, however mixes with cocksfoot or other ryegrasses can offer benefits.

Performance

Kidman NEA2 is the highest producing cultivar in the early maturing sheep/beef category

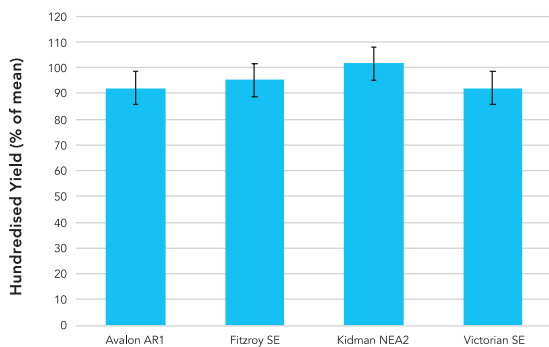


Figure: Kidman NEA2 provides significantly better total seasonal yield, when compared to the early-mid perennial ryegrass segment. Data from 7 trials (2014-2018) located at Warragul (VIC) & Howlong NSW). Data expressed as percentage of trial mean. LSD: 6.3%; CV: 4.5%

Kidman NEA2 provides significantly more feed in critical periods in autumn & winter when compared to other cultivars targeted at the sheep/beef segment.

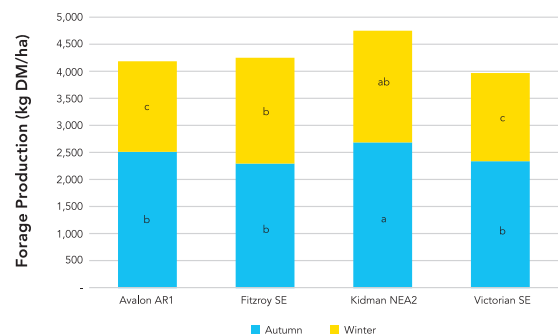


Figure: Kidman NEA2 provides significantly better autumn and winter yield, when compared to the early-mid perennial ryegrass segment, a common time for feed deficits in many farms. Data from 7 trials (2014-2018) located at Warragul (VIC) & Howlong NSW). Data expressed as kg DM/ha. LSD (kg DM/ha): autumn (312) & winter (149); CV: autumn (8.1%) & winter (5.3%)



Picture: A photo taken of Kidman (LHS) vs. Victorian perennial ryegrass (RHS) at Howlong in June 2017. As highlighted in the data Kidman has significant advantages in winter production when compared with 'Victorian' and other European genetics.

Kidman NEA2 low 'aftermath heading' and tight flowering period, means significantly better utilisation of feed on offer in Spring.

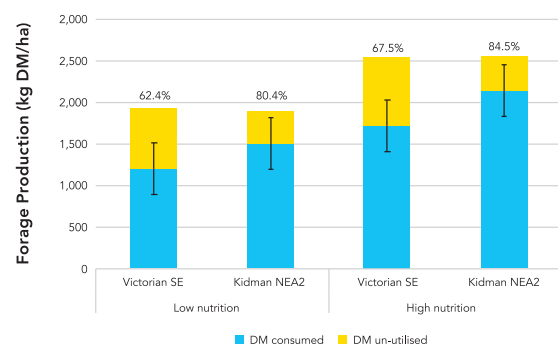


Figure: Kidman NEA2 due to its low 'aftermath heading' and tight flowering period demonstrates significantly ($P < 0.05$) better in utilisation in spring. Data taken from Howlong species x nutrition trial in October 2016 showing Kidman's improved utilisation by sheep of available feed on offer (FOO). Percentage of utilised FOO is detailed in the top labels with Kidman having around a 17–18% benefit under both 'high' and 'low' fertiliser regimes. LSD: 312 kg DM/ha



¹ <https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/farm/feedbase-and-animal-nutrition/pasture/forage-value-index>

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