Forage
Newsletter

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DLF TRIFOLIUM
SEEDS & SCIENCE

Overseeding every year for genetic improvement

For six years the Dutch dairy farm partnership Hebbink-Zielhorst has been overseeding grassland, increasingly in recent years. "By overseeding the same effect as with ploughing and reseeding is obtained, but in an easier and cheaper way, and your grass production from the existing sward remains at the same level," says Jelger Zielhorst.

In the spring, all pastures and cutting fields are harrowed and overseeded with grass seed. If weather allows, some fields are also overseeded in the autumn. "When overseeding in the autumn, the young grass makes a flying start in the spring. If you do nothing, after a few years a sward is exhausted. Overseeding suppresses weeds and adds new and improved grasses and varieties with better production. By overseeding you constantly have genetic progress and continuously renew your grassland," says Jelger Zielhorst.

MORE MILK WITH DLF

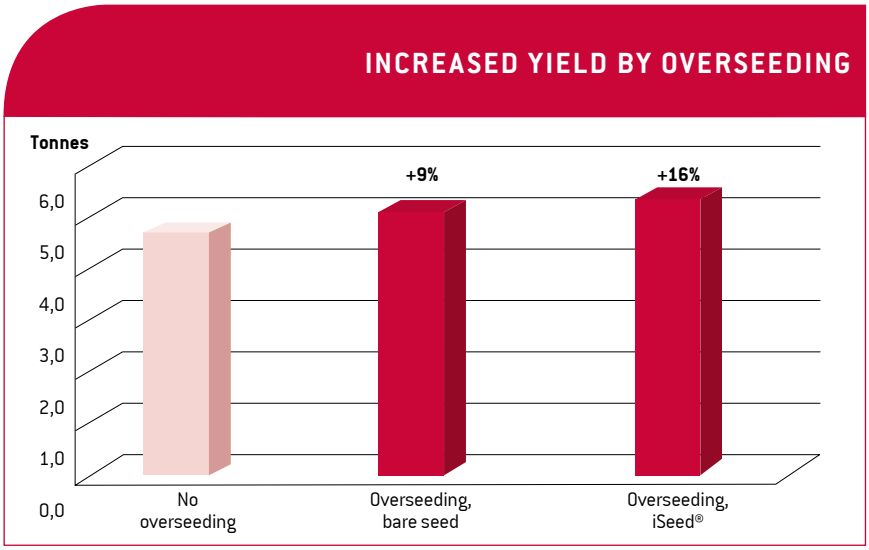
Overseeding Definitely Pays Off

Trials with repeated overseeding each year, conducted over 8 years in the UK, demonstrate the benefits of overseeding. Yield increases of up to 44% have been achieved by overseeding with ryegrasses + clover. In a normal sward, up to 25% of the yield can be lost in the first two or three years of use and after 5-8 years of age around 40% of a typical sward consists of unsown species.

In all cases there is also an associated improvement in quality. In most cases overseeding is 3-4 times cheaper than total re-seeding. The cost of overseeding is therefore recouped several times over. Overseeding with DLF-TRIFOLIUM's ForageMax® mixtures maintains a high yield and quality in the sward throughout its life. You could say that it remains almost like a permanent first year sward.

9-16% higher yield from overseeding

Trials conducted in 2014 at Hooibeekhoeve, the official test centre in Province Antwerp, Belgium, showed up to 16% higher yield in the first 2014 cut after overseeding in October 2013 with a mixture of five different varieties of Perennial ryegrass in a relatively open, old grass field.



Yield of dry matter, ton/ha at first cut, 23 April 2014 after overseeding with Vredo machine on 11 October 2013. Trials at Hooibeekhoeve, Province Antwerp, Belgium.

Efficient Grass Utilisation

Clover and Festulolium improve milk production
The farmer's answer to high prices on protein and nitrogen fertiliser is self-sufficiency – as much feed as possible needs to be produced on the farm. This will normally be a cheaper solution than buying concentrate and it removes some of the uncertainty in the fluctuating market prices for cereals, soya, etc.

Grass and clover leys offer an opportunity to improve dairy and beef farming results and the combination of clover and Festulolium is outstanding:

- **More than 2 tonnes protein per hectare.** This quantity can replace almost the same amount of for example soya protein which has to be bought at market price.
- **Up to 250 kg nitrogen for free.** This can be utilised by the grasses in the field and it saves costs for bagged nitrogen.
- **Higher feed intake by animals.** Typically the increase in intake is 10-20% for grazing animals and similar for silage.
- **Higher summer production.** White clover and varieties of Festulolium, type Tall fescue, have higher mid-season production than ryegrass.
- **Overcoming drought.** Red clover and Festulolium have very deep root systems and maintain production in dry periods.
- **Better crop rotation.** A Legume grass field is beneficial in a rotation with cereals adding nitrogen and an improved soil structure.

New results underline the role of clover
Trials at DLF-TRIFOLIUM support the development of new ForageMax® mixtures with special focus on the protein supply. At our four main testing sites in Europe, located in France, The Netherlands, UK and Denmark, a large number of grass clover combinations have been examined over the past years.

ForageMax® mixtures with more protein
The portfolio of ForageMax® mixtures consists of a large amount of protein mixtures for various markets. All the ForageMax® mixtures have been specifically composed to achieve the optimal blend of grass and legume species, including Festulolium. The individual formulations vary for each region based on local needs and the knowledge and trial data that DLF has for each of their local markets throughout the world.

Please contact your local DLF seed supplier for more information on seed varieties and ForageMax® mixtures with more protein.

PROTEIN FROM RED AND WHITE CLOVER

	YIELD, TON DRY MATTER PER HA, ALL CUT, TWO YEARS	YIELD, RELATIVE	% PROTEIN IN CROP, ALL CUT	KG PROTEIN PER HA, ALL CUT, TWO YEARS	KG PROTEIN PER HA, RELATIVE
100% Festulolium PERSEUS*	20.0	100	16.9	3,175	100
80% Festulolium PERSEUS* + 20% Red clover SUEZ	19.4	97	18.3	3,306	104
80% Festulolium PERSEUS* + 10% Red clover SUEZ + 10% White clover KLONDIKE	22.4	112	17.8	3,925	124
100% Festulolium HYKOR**	20.6	100	15.2	2,995	100
80% Festulolium HYKOR** + 20% Red clover SUEZ	23.0	115	18.7	4,091	137
80% Festulolium HYKOR** + 10% Red clover SUEZ + 10% White clover KLONDIKE	23.8	119	18.2	4,252	142

** PERSEUS = ryegrass type, ** HYKOR = Tall fescue type*
Yield of dry matter and protein, total for 1st and 2nd year 2012 + 2013. Development Trials, DLF-TRIFOLIUM.

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