

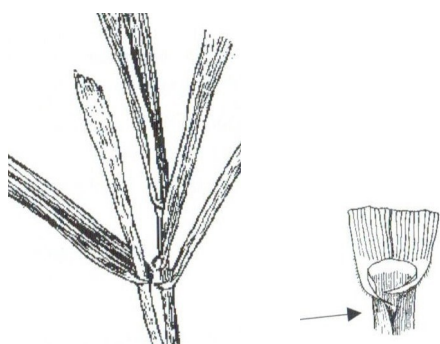
Interrow benefits that speak for themselves

How about increasing the economic and ecological value of your vineyard, by sowing one of the following perennial pasture grasses together with a mix of legumes interrow between your vines? In this newsletter we are looking at two Mediterranean forage grass options suitable for interrow sowing in vineyards as an alternative to conventional amenity grass types.

- **Weed control through suppression**
- **no or very little mowing during summer month necessary**
- **quality feed for sheep and cattle in return for natural fertiliser**
- **Plants take up excess water during wet winter month**
- **Biomass production to increase organic matter**
- **under good management, expect a persistent sward in years to come with no re-sowing necessary**



Prosper tall Fescue is a winter active, summer dormant pasture grass we have stocked for some time now, because of its ability to produce high quality nutritive feed for sheep and cattle. Prosper's erect growth and soft leaves are well accepted by stock. Due to its deep root system, it is adapted to a wide range of soils and suitable for low to medium rainfall areas. Prosper tall Fescue can also tolerate Marlborough's annual rainfall over the winter month- short periods of waterlogging are no issue.

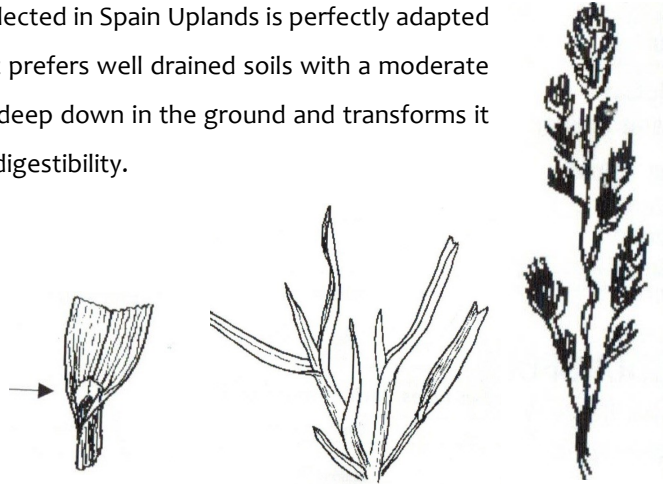


Prosper tall Fescue establishes slow in its first year, so start grazing only when its root system is well developed and will not be pulled out of the ground by animals. During autumn and winter (non reproductive phase) graze in range 5-15 cm, during spring (reproductive phase) graze in range 3-10 cm. Always allow a rapid post- grazing recovery as this will keep the grass palatable and encourages companion legumes to grow.



Upland Cocksfoot, is new to the NZ Market, also an autumn and winter active pasture grass with some activity during summer. Originally collected in Spain Uplands is perfectly adapted to seasonal summer droughts as well winter frosts. It prefers well drained soils with a moderate to high fertility . It's deep root system finds nutrients deep down in the ground and transforms it into high protein and high value forage with excellent digestibility.

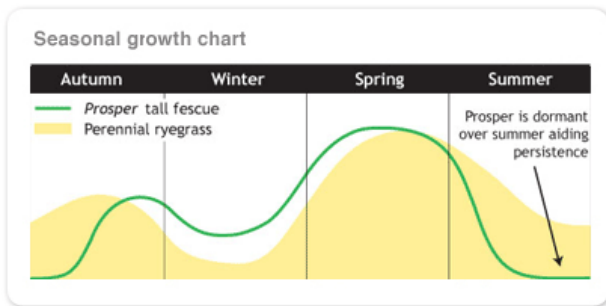
Uplands can be sown from end summer to late autumn but will establish slower in cooler month, once established, Upland can tolerate persistent close grazing by sheep. Excellent companion plant to legumes.



Pictures: Pasture and Forage plants for NZ, Charlton & Steward, 2006

Prosper tall Fescue

Active Growing Period
May - October



<http://www.heritageseeds.com.au/products/prosper/>

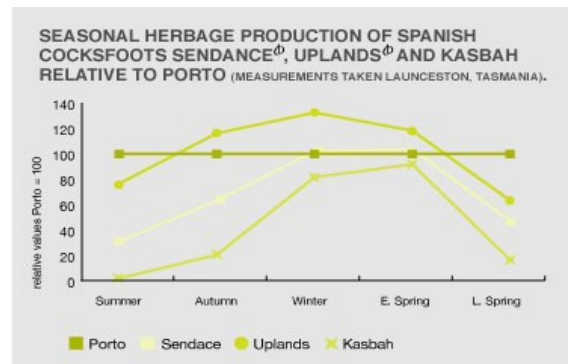
Autumn and winter active with long spring growth,
Summer dormant- drought tolerant, Low and medium rainfall (>450mm), will tolerate short periods of waterlogging

Sowing: autumn, early winter
Drilled, direct drilled or broadcast
Depth: about 5 mm

Sowing rate:
Pure: 18-25 kg
Mix: 8-13 kg

Upland Cocksfoot

Active Growing Period
End April- end October



http://www.tasglobalseeds.com/pro_gra_upl.html

Autumn and winter active, some summer activity,
drought and frost tolerant, suitable for low and medium rainfall areas (300-750mm), will tolerate short periods of waterlogging

Sowing: late summer, autumn
Drilled, direct drilled or broadcast
Depth: about 5 mm

Sowing rate:
Pure: 3-5 kg/ ha
Mix: 1-2 kg



Legumes are great companions for perennial grasses!

Both **Prosper tall Fescue** and **Uplands Cocksfoot** can and should be mixed with **annual and perennial legumes**, suitable for your conditions. Legumes, such as clover fix Nitrogen for free! Fescue, cocksfoot as well as vines rely on sufficient N in the soil for healthy growth and sheep & cattle love legumes too.



Uplands cocksfoot and Prosper tall fescue together with clover

Options for Spring

But what if there is no time to wait till autumn, for whatever reason?

There are different grasses that can be sown in the spring available. **Hillary ARI Ryegrass** is one of the few grazing ryegrass options safe for sheep to feed on. If you do not intend to graze the area to be sown then **Joust** and **Alsport Ryegrass** as well as **Creeping Red Fescue** are ideal for heavy traffic areas, such as headlands.

Spring is also sowing **time for wildflowers** to attract beneficial Insects to your place. Phacelia, Buckwheat, Poppies, Alyssum and more are available.



Phacelia in January 2011

Kiwi
Seed

We are here to help you make money!