

# PRE-SOWING CHECKLIST

WITH FARM SOURCE AND BARENBRUG



BARENBRUG

## Get the most out of your pasture

Around 50% of the success of a new pasture is in the set up before you sow it. Time spent getting things right to start, is time well spent.

Your local Farm Source TSR can help you work through these, and the Barenbrug team are available for extra support.



### Check paddock for any issues

Are there any issues such as soil compaction or drainage? These may influence your renewal method.



### Soil test the paddock and correct soil fertility

Good pastures need the right nutrient supply and soil pH.



### Check for pests (e.g. grass grub, black beetle, slugs and ASW)

High pest numbers in the paddock need controlled, as they can effect establishment.



### Choose appropriate sowing date

Avoid the risk of cold temperatures slowing establishment, which often leads to high weed content. As a general rule, wait until soil temperatures are  $>10^{\circ}\text{C}$  before sowing ryegrass, and  $>12^{\circ}\text{C}$  for brome grasses and tall fescue.



### If relying on a contractor, book them in early



### Care for your soil

Healthy soils are central to a strong, sustainable pasture, and soil structure and biology are key indicators of this. Soil structure takes decades to create, and minutes to damage if soils are overcultivated, or cultivated when too dry or wet.



### Choose appropriate renewal method

Cultivate or direct drill? Each has advantages and limitations, and both can work well in the right situation.



### Spray out paddock prior to cultivation or direct drilling

The best weed control is done before you sow. If there is a strike of weeds this is a good chance to kill them.



### If cultivating, prepare a good seed bed (firm and level)

A firm seed bed, through rolling, gives good seed:soil contact (otherwise the fastest establishment is in the wheel tracks!) A level seedbed is needed for drills to accurately control sowing depth – remember clover sown at  $>4\text{cm}$  will probably never emerge.



### Choose correct sowing technique

Weed control comes from good ground cover of ryegrass and clover. Techniques such as roller drilling or broadcasting (provided seed is covered) give the best ground cover. They also give the best clover content, as ryegrass and clover isn't packed into rows.



### Drill carefully

Drilling can't be rushed. Misses show, and slower drilling means more even sowing depth and so establishment.



### Apply slug bait if needed.

Slugs can destroy pastures at establishment. If unsure put some wet sacks or boards out to estimate their number.