

## Newsletter No. 10

November 2018



**NORTHLAND'S  
DIVERSIFIED FORAGES**

### Field Day

Wednesday 7 November

Roger & Barbara Gillatt

Allister & Maree McCahon

Northland Agricultural Research Farm  
(NARF)

The day starts with coffee at Roger & Barbara Gillatt's at 9:30 a.m. – 881 Red Hill Road, Te Kopuru.

We will be looking at and discussing the various pastures at Roger & Barbara's, being lucerne, annual clover and annual ryegrass, plus pastures of perennial ryegrass, white clover, annual clover and plantain.

The diversified pastures at Allister & Maree's include tall fescue, cocksfoot, perennial and annual clovers. Their plots are extremely variable in terms of mixes of species sown. These plots and pastures are looking superb – as good as anywhere in New Zealand!



### Reminder: Field Day – Wednesday 7 November



Pasture growth rates of the plots and the whole-paddock sowings continue to be very strong in October, through what has been a difficult month for many!

**24 Sept 2018**

***Ivan's Exclusion Cage about to be cut on 24 Sept. Pasture mass @ 4540 kg DM/ha giving a growth rate of 43 kg DM/day since a 10 June sowing. Current growth rate estimated @ 70 kg DM/ha/day.***

***Composition data giving a very impressive 48% of the plant material present being berseem annual clover***

NARF Pasture Growth – September and Year to date, 2018		
Pasture Mixes	September Growth Kg DM/ha/day	Growth Year to Date Kg DM/ha
Perennial grasses, white & red clover, no annual clover	55	4,251
Perennial grasses, white & red clover, plus annual clover	62	5,948
Annual clover on its own	55	5,946

The annual clovers have been growing strongly at this site during July to October. In the mixes with annual clovers added, this presence of the annual clovers has fuelled an additional 1,697 kg DM/ha from sowing up to 1 October, being 40% increase in growth.

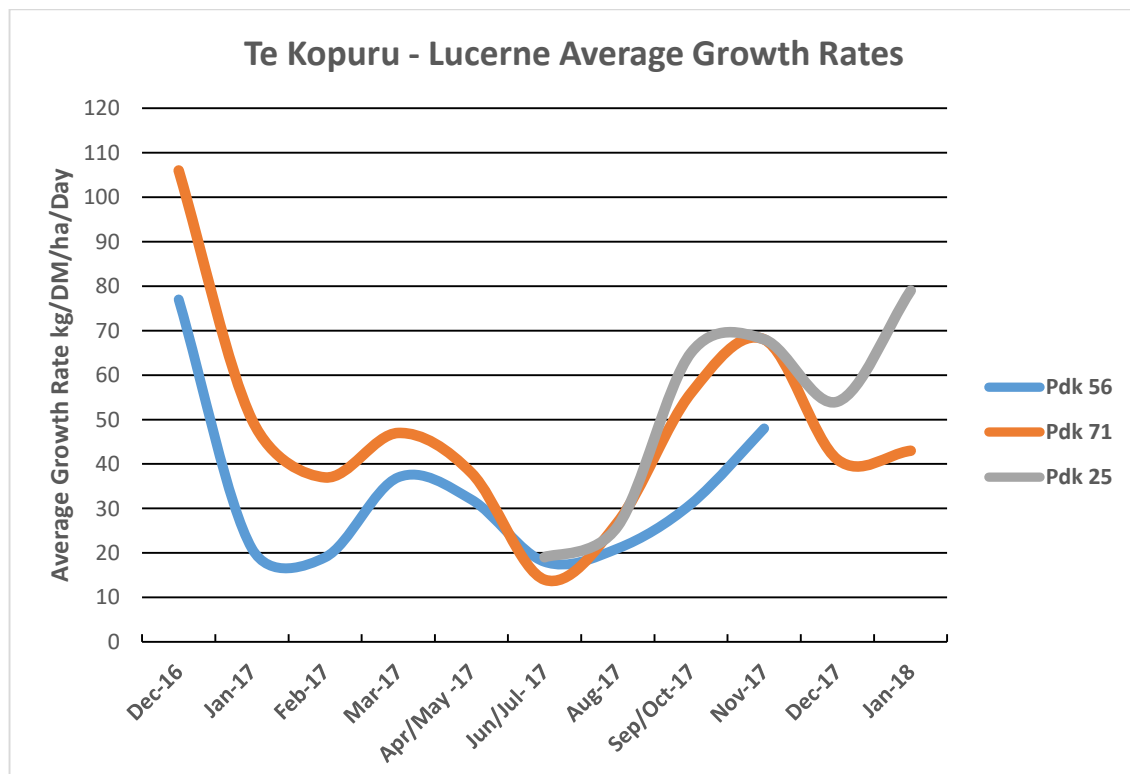
These annual clovers were added to the same mixes of perennial grasses, being perennial ryegrass, tall fescue, cocksfoot, plus white and red clover. The “leading” treatment (three plots in each treatment) is the perennial ryegrass, white & red clover, plus berseem annual clover @ 6,612 kg DM/ha to date. The tall fescue, white and red clover, plus berseem clover is not far behind @ 6,500 kg DM/ha.

These two leading treatments are 2,300 kg DM/ha (55%) ahead of the mixes with no annual clovers.

***Will this advantage to the annual cloves mixes continue through to Christmas?***

And then, will there be an advantage for the mixes that had no annual clover present during the spring due to a stronger presence of white & red clover?

Lucerne Results – Roger & Barbara Gillatt. See below for the graphed results of the first 12-14 months of monitoring of their lucerne paddocks.



Feed Quality Result Sample Collected mid-late October 2018			
Species	Berseem	Berseem	Persian
Pasture Mass Kg Dm/ha	4,050	5,500	5,300
Growth Rate Kg DM/ha/day	62	88	88
Dry matter %	14.0	16.1	11.7
Metabolisable Energy MJME/kg DM	11.4	11.1	11.8
Crude Protein %	19.4	17.8	18.3
Sugar %	9.7	11.1	12.9
Acid Detergent Fibre %	26.4	25.0	23.1
Grazing Residual in August Kg DM/ha	1,000	2,000	2,000

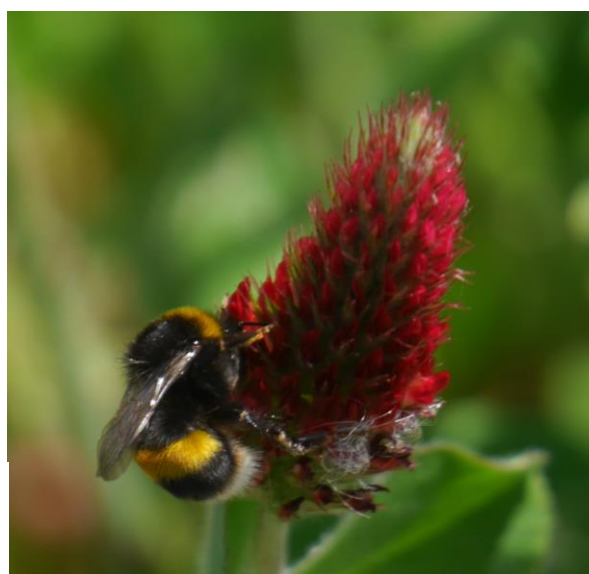
**Comment:**

- A higher daily growth rate from the higher residual back in August.
- Feed quality of all three samples for mid-late October is high.

Feed quality, energy and protein, is very slightly higher for the less mature berseem with a pasture mass on 4,050 kg DM/ha.

Feed quality of the Persian sample is slightly higher than these berseem samples: This is consistent with previous years' results.

Very high sugar levels, especially for the more mature berseem and even more so, the Persian material. These two samples were at the lab 24 hours after being sampled and testing started within 18 hours after that. To get accurate sugar results especially, a quick to very quick turn-around from sampling, to the start of testing is important.



**10 Oct 2018**  
*Bumble bee attracted to the flowering  
crimson clover*





**8 Oct 2018**  
**200 kg bull grazing**  
**pasture mix**  
**dominated by very**  
**high annual clover**  
**content: 82% made**  
**up of berseem,**  
**Persian & balansa.**



***Persian clover in flower***



***Balansa clover in flower***



Yearling  
Friesian and  
cross-bred bulls  
grazing a  
mixture of  
Persian,  
berseem and  
balansa clover-  
dominated  
pasture.  
Enjoying a pre-  
graze of 6 t  
DM/ha which  
has been  
growing at 95  
kg/day for the  
30 days up to  
26 Oct 2018

**Ministry for Primary Industries**  
Manatū Ahu Matua



**Hine Rangi Trust**

**T.R ELLETT AGRICULTURAL  
RESEARCH TRUST**

