

Productivity Highlights

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Pasture composition affects fertiliser choice

The choice of fertilisers for your pasture will depend on many factors, including pasture and grazing management. However, pasture composition is the main influence.

Traditionally, Super Phos has been used on pastures to supply phosphorus (P), sulfur (S) and calcium (Ca). Potassium (K) deficiency has become more widespread in recent years and Potash is now applied to pastures. And, even more recently, growers are seeing the benefits of applying nitrogen (N) to some pastures.

Soil testing is recommended to monitor soil fertility and fine-tune fertiliser strategies for all pastures.

Weed Dominant

Pastures dominated by weeds are often an indicator of poor productivity, poor management and possibly low nutrient levels in the soil. Waterlogging or soil acidity may also be a problem. Soil testing is recommended to determine which nutrients or soil factors are limiting production. Seeking agronomic advice is advisable, but these pastures will generally benefit from the application of 80-100 kg/ha Super Phos.

Grass Dominant

In K-deficient situations, seed set and regeneration of legumes are poor and pastures tend to become dominated by grasses. Monitoring K levels through soil testing is recommended and the legumes may benefit from the application of Potash. Grass dominant pastures benefit from the application of Super Potash mixes, usually at rates of 150-400 kg/ha. The ratio of Super to Potash will depend upon the degree of K deficiency, and 2:1 or 3:1 is recommended in clearly deficient situations.

Grass dominant pastures often suffer from low N because the legumes are fixing small amounts from the atmosphere

compared to a clover dominated pasture. In these situations, the application of 90 kg/ha Urea or 100 L/ha Flexi-N, in addition to Super Potash, can provide a rapid boost to production and enhance carrying capacity.

Balanced Pasture

A mix of 40-70% legume and 60-30% grass is considered ideal for stock production. These pastures will benefit from 100-300kg/ha Super Phos to maintain high production and soil testing will help determine the optimum rate. If soil K levels are marginal, then the application of 120-300 kg/ha Super Potash (usually 4:1 or 5:1) is recommended to ensure the legume persists.

Legume Dominant

Pastures with 80% or more legume, can often benefit from the promotion of the grass component. Sowing ryegrass into the pasture in autumn can enhance early feed production and carrying capacity. These pastures will benefit from the application of 100-300 kg/ha Super Phos.

