



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Seed Mix trial 2019

Introduction

The Seed Mix trial 2019 has a range of forage options designed for early feed production for Western Australia's (WA's) high rainfall pasture regions. In 2018, the trial mainly focused on whether or not adding oats to ryegrass and which seeding rate of ryegrass in the mix could improve early feed production. The results showed no significant difference between treatments at the Boyanup site (loamy sand) throughout the season, while there was a 500 kg/ha dry matter (DM) response early in the season and some yield variation late in the season at the Dardanup site (fertile clay-loam). The trial this year is a continuation at the Dardanup site and has five distinctively different mix of seeds. The main aim of Seed Mix trial is to test what seed mix can provide more feed early in the season for WA's milking regions and their performance throughout the growing season.

Materials & Methods

There are four mixes of forage seed, each provided by one of the trial sponsors, and a control ryegrass treatment (Table 1). The establishment and harvest protocol and times were the same as those used for the WASP (WA Seed Performance) trial, using cut and carry harvest method and applying none growth-limiting level of fertilizer. Pests such as insects and weeds are monitored and controlled while spotted.

Table 1. Seed mixes sown in Western Dairy Seed Mix trial 2019, with sowing rate, batch characteristics, and plant variety/brand.

Treatment	Rate (kg/ha)	Batch characteristics	Variety/Brand
Control	25	Annual ryegrass, mid-season tetraploid	Abundant
Heritage	80	Forage barley	Dictator 2
	15	Annual ryegrass, late-season tetraploid	Hogan
Irwin Hunter (IH)	3	Forage brassica	Buster
	25	Annual ryegrass, mid-season tetraploid	Abundant
Landmark	50	Oat	Williams
	2	Persian clover	Shaftal
	3	Forage rape	Leafmore
	25	Annual ryegrass, mid-season tetraploid	Attain
PGG Wrightson	60	Ryecorn	Southern
	20	Annual ryegrass, early-mid season tetraploid	Astro

