

# RIFLEMAN

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RAPE

Rifleman is a New Zealand bred, dual purpose rape that is exceptionally leafy with a high regrowth ability for multiple grazings. Rifleman is mid maturity rape and is ready for grazing on average 70 to 90 days post sowing, depending on environmental conditions which will dictate exact maturity time till grazing.

Post-grazing, regrowth is leafy with new leaves developing from low on the main stem delivering high quality feed for stock performance during summer and autumn. Expect two to three summer and autumn grazings depending on management and seasonal conditions.

Rifleman yields well from a late spring/early autumn sowing and can also be used as a single graze option providing quality forage throughout the winter.



## OUTSTANDING REGROWTH

### Agronomic traits

- **Stem height:** Intermediate
- **Leaf to stem ratio:** High
- **Regrowth ability:** Very high
- **Disease tolerance:** Very good

### Animal safety

Recommended for:



Dairy



Beef



Sheep



Deer

### Sowing information

- **Sowing rate (kg/ha):** 4
- **Sowing depth:** 1-2cm
- **Sowing season:** October to March
- **Maturity:** 70 to 90 days from sowing to grazing

## OUTSTANDING REGROWTH

As a multi-graze crop, Rifleman exhibits exceptional post-grazing regrowth, with new leaves developing low on the main stem. This leaf growth ensures high feed quality, supporting good stock performance during summer and autumn. Expect two to three grazings during these seasons, depending on management practices and weather conditions.

For the first grazing, remove all leaves, leaving only the stem and petiole. Allow Rifleman to regrow for thirty to forty five days before each successive grazing. With appropriate management, an additional two to three grazings are possible. Its remarkable regrowth capability also makes it suitable for mixing with companion species such as plantain, chicory, clover, and short-term grasses.



## WINTER FEED

Rifleman performs well when sown in late spring or early autumn, providing options for multiple grazings. It can also be used as a single-graze option, offering substantial yields of nutritious feed during the Winter months.

### DRY MATTER YIELD AND REGROWTH OF FORAGE RAPE VARIETIES (2024-25 SEASON)

Variety	Yield t DM/ha	Yield Regrowth t DM/ha	Total Yield t DM/ha	Hundredised
<b>Rifleman</b>	8.7 a	4.6 a	13.2 a	114.3
<b>Pillar</b>	7.7 ab	4.6 a	12.3 ab	105.9
<b>Mainstar</b>	8.3 ab	3.4 b	11.7 ac	100.7
<b>Spitfire</b>	7.5 ab	3.9 ab	11.4 bc	98.2
<b>Titan</b>	7.3 b	3.5 b	10.8 bc	93.3
<b>Winfred</b>	7.7 ab	2.5 c	10.1 c	87.6
<i>Mean</i>	7.9	3.7	11.6	
<i>Trtsig</i>	NS	***	**	
<i>CV%</i>	11.0	15.1	9.6	
<i>LSD</i>	1.3	0.8	1.7	

Trial was sown in Darfield on the 22/10/24, initial cut was 79 days after sowing on 9/1/25. After grazing by sheep for 9 days the regrowth was cut 73 days later on 11/4/25.

## GROWING GUIDE

Rifleman is often sown as a sole species at a rate of 4kg/ha. Sowing closer to mid-October can increase the number of potential grazings during the summer months, conditions permitting. Typically, three grazings are common for mid-October sowings, while one to two grazings are more typical for late spring or autumn sowings.

For optimal utilisation, Rifleman should be grazed 70 to 90 days after sowing, assuming the crop has matured. At this stage, the plant is primarily leaf and of exceptional quality. Forage quality remains high up to 110 to 120 days post-sowing, but it is best utilised prior to this period.

The maturity date of Rifleman rape is influenced by several factors, mainly fertility, heat and moisture. Under dry and sunny conditions the crop will mature faster, resulting in a quicker time to first grazing. As with all brassicas, care should be taken when transitioning young stock onto Rifleman rape from other feeds.



## SOWING RATE

Rifleman Rape should be sown at 4kg/ha, whether for single or multiple grazings. This rate ensures the optimum plant density for maximum yields. Sowing can occur between October and March, depending on your feed requirements.

Sowing period	Optimum grazing period
October - December	December - March
January - March	April - August

