



NFVT Summary

2025 - 2026

Perennial Ryegrass

All of New Zealand

The NFVT system

The National Forage Variety Trials (NFVT) is a nationwide trial system running since 1991, funded by Seed Companies of the NZ Plant Breeders and Research Association, to assess the performance of pasture cultivars under industry agreed standards. Visit the PBRA website for more information (www.pbra.co.nz).



Why NFVTs are run

The NFVTs provide the best, independent data on cultivar performance for the pastoral industry. This also protects farmers and the industry from unproven claims around (typically cheap) seed. Data from the NFVT system is published on the PBRA website annually in September.

How are trials run

The NFVT's are replicated plot trials undertaken throughout the country to test current and new cultivars under as close as possible conditions to good farmer practice. They follow a technical protocol, and every trial is independently audited every year. Dry matter yield is assessed on a rotational management basis. Animal performance is not assessed.



Trial summaries

There are summaries available for annual, italian, hybrid and perennial ryegrasses, for all New Zealand trials, trials south of Taupo, upper North Island, lower North Island, upper South Island and lower South Island. Total and seasonal yields are presented.

Results details

Average dry matter yield of each cultivar is presented as a horizontal green bar. The statistical error for cultivar yield is shown by the black 'H' icon on the right end of the yield bars. In comparing cultivars, where error icons overlap cultivars are not significantly different at the 95% confidence level, where error icons do not overlap, they are significantly different.



Example of error icons:



Seasons are defined as:

Autumn (March, April, May),
Winter (June, July),
Early Spring (August, September),
Late Spring (October, November),
Summer (December, January, February).

Endophyte strains are specified as follows:

- Cultivars with the suffix '*SE*' contain Standard Endophyte.
- Cultivars containing novel endophytes are named (e.g. *AR1*, *AR37*, *Endo5*, *NEA2*).
- Cultivars without endophyte have a '*WE*' suffix.

The NFVT data provides no indication of differences in animal health or performance due to endophyte strain. An industry summary of animal safety and insect control of endophytes can be found on the PBRA website.













