

KEA KALE 

CROPMARK
SEEDS

GROWING CLOSER

KEA

KALE

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Kea is a New Zealand bred intermediate kale selected for its high dry matter yield and leaf percentage. Thanks to its rapid growth and high leaf content, Kea offers flexibility: it can be used as a high-yielding single-graze Winter feed or as a multi-grazed option. When planted in early Spring, Kea can be grazed multiple times throughout the Summer and Autumn months. This adaptability adds flexibility to farm systems and transforms how kales have been historically utilised on New Zealand farms.

Kea was bred to combine the winter yield characteristics of intermediate and giant type kales with increased leafiness, enhancing quality, utilisation, and animal performance.



OUTSTANDING CONSISTENTLY HIGH YIELDS!

Winter yield (t DM/ha) at Methven and Gore

Variety	Gore	Methven	Average
Kea	13.9 a	16.3 a	15.1 a
SovGold	11.0 b	12.7 bc	11.8 b
Proteor	11.7 b	11.5 bc	11.6 b
Bombardier	10.2 b	12.8 bc	11.5 b
Coleor	10.5 b	13.1 b	11.2 b
Regal	10.2 b	10.9 c	10.6 b
Mean	11.3	12.9	12.1
Significance	***	***	***
CV%	9.6	10.7	11.6
LSD	1.6	2.1	2.0

*Trials sown November 2022 and harvested May 2023
Means with different letters are significantly different ($P < 0.05$).*

Agronomic traits

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

Animal safety

Recommended for:



Dairy



Beef



Sheep



Deer

Sowing information

- **Sowing rate:** 4kg/ha
- **Sowing depth:** 1-2cm
- **Sowing season:** October to February
- **Time to grazing:** 50 to 220 days from sowing

HIGH REGROWTH ABILITY

Kea is a leafy kale with strong regrowth ability. When planted from October to December, Kea will provide a high amount of quality feed that can be grazed in the late Summer or Autumn, followed by additional grazings in the late Autumn and Winter periods. Yields can range from 3 to 5 tonnes of dry matter per hectare at each successive grazing, this is dictated by grazing residual, regrowth periods, soil moisture and soil fertility. Kea has shown strong disease tolerance to stem rot and other diseases after grazing.



FLEXI-GRAZE

Spring-sown Kea can be grazed as soon as needed, with no ripening requirement. Its strong regrowth from successive Summer and Autumn sheep grazings provides flexibility for managing feed budgets and adapting to unpredictable seasons. This flexibility also reduces the risk of animal health issues associated with grazing immature rape crops. Grazing can start as early as 50 days post sowing for multi-grazings or be delayed until 220 days with no loss in feed quality.

Regrowth & stem rot resistance score following first grazing

Variety	Regrowth	Stem Rot Resistance
Kea	7.5 a	6.5 ab
Coleor	6.3 ab	7 a
SovGold	5.3 b	4.8 b
Mean	6.6	6.2
Significance	***	***
LSD	1.1	1.4

Trial sown 29 November 2023 in the Waikato, grazed until 28 February 2024, Rot Score taken 19 March 2024, regrowth scored 10 April 2024.

CHT Breeding lines omitted from trial results.

Values with differing letter are significantly different ($P < 0.05$).
Regrowth score 1 = low, 10 = high.
Stem rot resistance score 1 = high level of rot, 10 = low level of rot.

Kea sheep grazing trial in the Waikato sown 29 November 2023.



9 February 2024



28 February 2024



10 April 2024

SOWING RATES

Kea should be sown at 4kg/ha for a single winter graze crop and 4kg/ha when targeting a crop for multiple Summer and Autumn grazings. These sowing rates result in the optimum plant density for maximum yield potential.

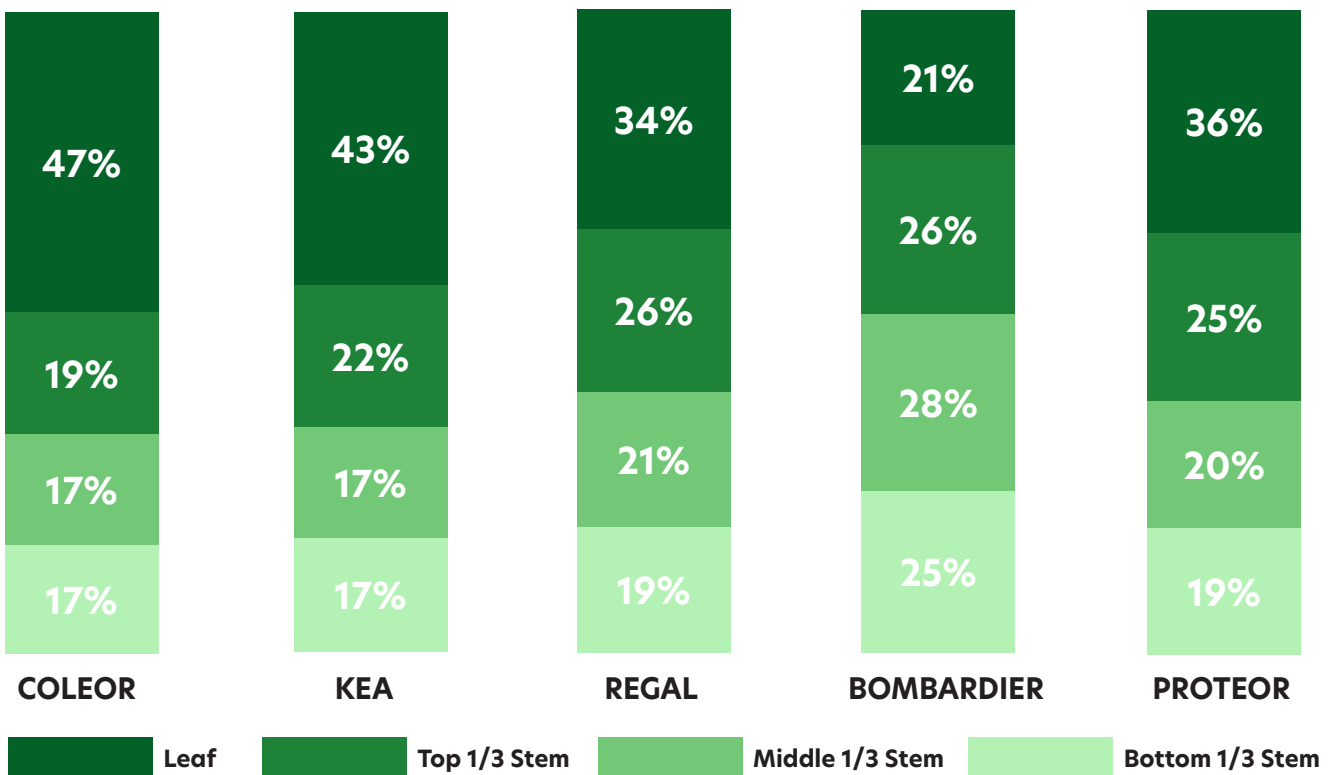
HIGH QUALITY FORAGE

As demonstrated in the graph below, Kea has a high proportion of its total available dry matter as leaf (over 40% on average) when grazed during Winter from a Spring sowing. Leaf and stem percentages below taken from Methven trial during May 2023 harvest.



Sowing period	Optimum grazing period
Late October - mid December	Late January - early August
January - early February	May - August

High leaf to stem ratio



Methven Winter Yield Trial sown November 2022 and harvested May 2023.