



A Late-Maturing Tetraploid Perennial Ryegrass

Quartet Tetraploid Perennial Ryegrass is a late maturing tetraploid perennial ryegrass bred especially for grazing. Trials show **Quartet** to be the preferred grass under grazing pressure, providing increased intake and animal performance (see back page for animal performance data). **Quartet** is highly digestible, profuse tillering, and a quick-growing variety. After the seed head is removed **Quartet** resumes vegetative growth, providing high quality forage throughout the summer. **Quartet** is less sensitive to drought and heat than many ryegrass varieties. Milk yield and animal gains can be very impressive on **Quartet** whether grazed or machine harvested. **Quartet** was bred in New Zealand and is a product of Wrightson Seed Ltd.

Notable Characteristics:

- Late maturity
- Excellent palatability/digestibility
- Low aftermath heading
- Excellent for rotational grazing
- Wide, succulent leaves
- Excellent rust resistance
- High energy/feed quality
- Improved drought tolerance
- Vigorous growth/re-growth
- Very high sugar content

Applications:

Quartet, has been recognized for a number of applications, but is best identified as being the preferred ryegrass for rotational grazing, providing large volumes of easily digestible feed to production animals, such as beef, dairy, sheep and other meat-producing livestock. **Quartet** can also be used in a maintenance diet for horse and other non-production livestock. It is an ideal component in mixtures with other ryegrasses or high palatable grasses and legumes. Use **Quartet** as pasture, intensive grazing, green chop, haylage, or dry hay. **Quartet** is also beneficial for use with alfalfa as an establishment crop as well as a final 1-3 year support crop.

Seeding Rates:

New fields/pasture: 35-45 lbs./acre as pure stand; 10-15 lbs./acre with other grasses; 35-45 lbs./acre with legumes.

With new alfalfa seeding: 2-3lbs./acre

Renovation/Overseeding existing fields/pastures:

- Pastures: 30-40 lbs./acre
- Alfalfa Hay Field: 5-7 lbs./acre.

Method of Seeding:

Use of a Brillion seeder, a no-till drill or a culti-packer is ideal. Frost seeding and broadcast seeding in early fall timed with moist soil can work well, especially if the animals are allowed to "hoof" it into the existing pasture. Seed to soil contact is vital to having a successful stand. Plant 1/4" deep. **Quartet** establishes rapidly, but plants should be firmly rooted prior to first grazing.

Fertility:

Quartet is a high-energy grass. Protein content is highly influence by nitrogen fertility. When available, legume-derived nitrogen is preferred – i.e. use of kura, white, or red clover. If no legume-derived nitrogen is available, apply commercial fertilizer or manure at a rate of 50# N/a at planting time and approximately every other grazing. If machine harvesting, 50# N/a should be applied at green-up and after each cutting. Finally, follow soil test recommendations.

Grazing and Harvest Tips:

Quartet is highly palatable; avoid over grazing. Rotational grazing is preferred and will increase yields and animal performance, as well as ensure stand longevity. Graze at approximately 8-10 inches and remove animals when at 3-4 inches. When grazing **Quartet**, reduce grain levels and consider adding more fiber to the ration. For high quality hay, harvest at boot stage. All perennial ryegrass varieties should be grazed low (to 1"-2") entering the winter season.

TECH SHEET



Dry matter vs. lamb live weight gain per hectare (combined data)

<u>Variety</u>	DM production	Lamb LWG
Nui	100	100
Aries HD	100	154
Embassy	103	136
Vedette	103	126
Bronsyn	106	101
Quartet	95	156

Data provided by Wrightson Seeds Ltd from New Zealand Study.