

CONCORD RYEGRASS

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TYPE: Diploid Italian

DESCRIPTION: Concord is a high yielding rust-resistant Italian ryegrass that can persist for up to 2-3 years.

Concord ryegrass, since its introduction to Australian pastures, has continued to demonstrate superiority over the traditionally sown short-term ryegrasses, Tetila, Moata and Tama.

PALATABILITY: Concord being a diploid has more tillers and green leaf than tetraploid varieties. Grazing experience has shown that Concord's finer cleaner leaf results in greater stock utilization through improved digestibility.

RUST RESISTANCE: Further enhances Concord's high palatability. NSW Department of Agriculture trials show Concord to have the highest rust resistance, while varieties such as Tetila (moderately susceptible) were inferior.

LATE FLOWERING: Concord's late flowering habit means that the traditional ryegrass grazing period is extended compared to the early flowering Tetila which deteriorates quickly in leaf quality.

YIELD: Over the last three years, Concord has consistently shown itself to be the outstanding yielder. Characteristically Concord will establish excellently with production peaks in late winter and spring.

TABLE 1. Annual forage production trial - Short-term ryegrasses, NSW
Department of Agriculture, Taree. (1984 season)

	t/ha.		Total-5 Cuts
	Winter-2 Cuts	(Dry Matter) Spring-3 Cuts	
Concord	4.9	7.5	12.4
Tetila	4.1	5.9	9.9
Moata	4.0	5.3	9.3
Paroa	3.9	5.4	9.3

Source: (Lauders - unpub.)

PERSISTENCE: Concord's persistence is unique. Trials at the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Pastoral Research Institute at Hamilton demonstrated Concord to persist into its third year while all other short-term varieties had been grazed out. Concord's high persistence also is evident in coastal NSW where other ryegrasses such as Tetila, Tama and Moata fail to compete with summer weeds. Concord carries through for an early autumn grazing the following season.