

□ Sam Taylor and Tim Crimp in the crop of Missile and Dargo annual ryegrasses.



# MISSILE AND DARGO ANNUAL RYEGRASSES

## Cornerstone to pasture quality and production at Rosa Glen

ROSA GLEN dairy farmer, Tim Crimp is building up his milking herd and pasture quality he says is the cornerstone of that strategy.

Tim, together with his wife Elizabeth and son, Peter currently milks 285 mainly Friesian cows with some Brown Swiss and Jersey also.

Annual milk production is 2.15 million litres and the farm, Forestview covers 352ha in two blocks.

"We are looking to increase pasture quality over quantity," Tim says.

Paddocks are fertilised early in March and 30 percent of the farm is limed annually.

He sowed 10 paddocks to Dargo and four paddocks to Missile annual ryegrasses last year for grazing and then hay and silage. Tim dry sows up to 120ha at the end of March and experience - contract seeding locally - has shown him that he can only sow too late.

"If we wait until the opening rains then the seed is competing with the established pastures," he says.

"We go in following emergence and knock out the broad leaf weeds."

Tim uses an Agrodrill with Baker boots and sowed the Dargo and Missile at 15kg/ha to separate paddocks so he could compare their performance.

"A higher rate of ryegrass tends to knock the clover about," he says.

"We get a good early establishment with the Baker boots and graze early.

"Last year we had an excellent start to the year and we grazed the ryegrasses six times before locking them up for silage and hay."

Annual rainfall for the district is normally 1000mm, but last year it was 1200mm.

Tim generally works on a 35 day grazing rotation which drops to 15 days in the spring.

A total of 250 acres was cut for hay and silage last year, including the 14 paddocks sown to Dargo and Missile.

Forestview cut 1096 hay rolls, each 450kg and 830 silage rolls, each 730kg.

"We are conserving fodder for eight months of the year so we need the productivity in the spring," Tim says.

He says the Missile looked promising and he suspects it may be an improved version of Dargo.

"But I'd like to see how it performs in a normal season," he adds.

"Any extra pasture allows us to minimise our grain purchases."



### Feed analysis comparisons - Waroona sampled 25 October 2004

Variety	Yield Kgs/DM/ha	ME MJ/Kg	Crude Protein %	Acid Detergent Fibre %	Digestibility (in Vitro) %	Nitrogen %
Dargo	4,592	10.3	14.3	35.2	73.0	2.3
Missile	4,592	11.2	13.9	28.4	79.0	2.2

Note: Missile shows higher ME and Digestibility values which has been reflected in other trial results in WA and the Eastern states.

### Trial result of Dargo and Missile annual ryegrasses cut on the 25th October 2004

The trial was sown on the 10th June 2004 with 200kgs/ha Superphosphate and 120 Kgs/ha Potash Super.

Management of the annual ryegrass section of the trial reflected the management of the surrounding silage paddock. Hay burst was applied to all annual ryegrass plots in mid September after the first cut had been taken. The area was then closed for a silage cut.

The table above shows the total yield after 38 days growth and feed analysis shows no yield difference between Dargo and Missile.

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