

# FORAGE CHICORY AND PLANTAIN

## ARE WE MISSING A TRICK?

Farmers in New Zealand grow massive acreages of both of these valuable crops; both as straight crops for grazing, but also within mixtures.... similar to our Lambtastic (see overleaf). Both of these crops are very palatable for sheep and lambs and contribute to live-weight gain.

## FORAGE CHICORY – GRASSLANDS CHOICE

Of all the varieties marketed in Great Britain and Ireland, Grasslands Choice is by far the most suitable for our temperate climate.

- Very high yields
- Extremely drought tolerant
- Bred to reduce concentration of lactones, making it less bitter and more palatable
- Deep roots bring up minerals and trace elements
- Contributes to the creation of a hostile gut environment for healthy livestock
- High live-weight gain in lambs



**Management**  
 Drill in to warm (10 degrees plus) soils at a depth of about 10mm.  
 Sow April to early July at 3 – 6kg/ha straight, or 1 – 4kg/ha in a mixture with grass and clovers.  
 Best rotationally grazed. Re-grazing should not commence until 2 – 4 leaves per plant have fully grown.

## FORAGE PLANTAIN – TONIC

Plantain can be sown as a pure sward or as a constituent of a mixture, such as Lambtastic.

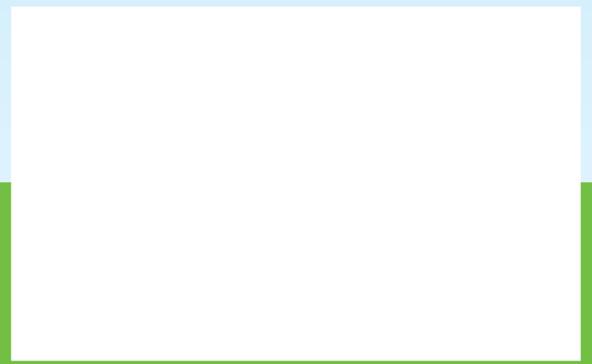
- Good spring growth, combined with tolerance of summer drought and heat
- Rapid establishment
- Highly palatable
- Potential to support weight gains of 250 – 350g per day in weaned lambs at high stocking rates
- Trials have shown that animals grazing plantain can have an increased uptake of both copper and selenium (Moorhead et al 2002)



**Management**  
 Drill in to warm soils (12 degrees) at a depth of about 10mm.  
 Sow April to early July at 8-10kg/ha as a straight, or 2-3kg/ha with grass and clovers.  
 Good growth early in the spring and late autumn. Plantain will provide a productive feed for 2-3 years.

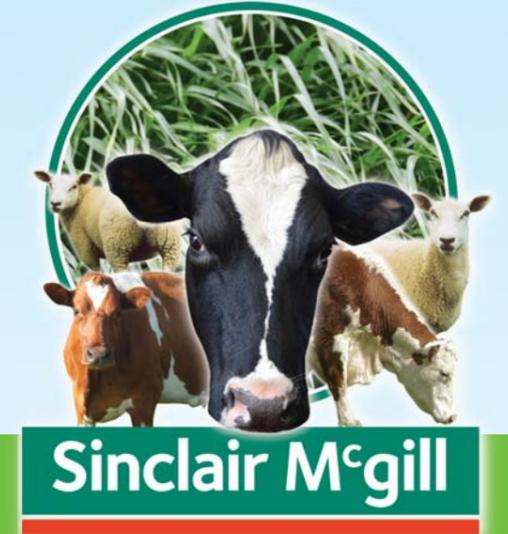


For more information, please contact your nearest distributor



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# CROP SOLUTIONS FOR COST EFFICIENT LAMB PRODUCTION



Sinclair McGill

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## INTRODUCTION

Nothing can match lamb for ease of production when it comes to meeting current consumer demand for traceable, naturally produced meat. However, raising lamb on home produced forage does not mean that it has to be low output extensive production. Quite the opposite in fact, as some of the products outlined in this booklet have the potential to dramatically reduce the time it takes to finish lambs and increase the output, when compared to high supplementary diets.

and could even lead to a reduction in your veterinary expenses!

Considerable research on low cost lamb production has been undertaken recently in both the UK and New Zealand. To some extent, we believe that lamb producers in the northern hemisphere are “missing a trick” compared to their counterparts in New Zealand, and we hope this booklet will go some way towards redressing the balance.

It is not just about lamb production, but also the healthy maintenance of ewes on productive grass and clover based systems, to ensure that unnecessary additional feeding costs are avoided.

The addition to mixtures of deep rooted crops, such as Tonic Forage Plantain and Grasslands Choice Forage Chicory, adds a number of health benefits to your armoury



## FORAGE CROPS

### SAMSON STUBBLE TURNIP

Samson can produce huge tankard shaped purple bulbs which are very palatable to both ewes and lambs. In trials, Samson has shown to be preferentially grazed, which can lead to higher intake and live weight gains.

**Sow May - August**  
**Suggested seed rate: 5kg/ha**



### AUTUMN KEEP

Very fast establishment for autumn use. Autumn Keep will produce a quality crop with good disease resistance.

#### Mixture contains:

1.00kg Forage Rape Hobson  
 0.5kg Stubble Turnip Samson  
 0.75kg Stubble Turnip Rondo  
 0.25kg Kale

**Sow June - August**  
**Suggested seed rate: 2.5kg/acre (5kg/ha)**



### LOMOND SWEDE

High, fresh and dry yields make this variety ideal for finishing lambs post Christmas. Lomond has both powdery mildew and clubroot tolerance and trials show it suffers less from rots and splits.

**Sow April - June**  
**Suggested seed rate: 3kg/ha**



### GRAMPIAN KALE

This variety will produce excellent autumn or winter feed. Grampian exhibits very high dry matter yields, combined with some clubroot tolerance and can be used to finish lambs.

**Sow April - June**  
**Suggested seed rate: 4kg/ha**



### INTERVAL RAPE/KALE HYBRID

Interval is a rape/kale hybrid with exceptional yield potential. When it comes to filling the gap in your winter feed programme, Interval can really boost your profits. Interval's disease resistance and palatability makes it ideal for finishing lambs, or for dairy cows. Interval is very fast to establish and can be ready to utilise within 10-12 weeks of sowing.

**Sow May - August**  
**Suggested seed rate: 5 - 6kg/ha**



## GRASS SEED MIXTURES

### LAMBHILL - MAINLY GRAZING

Probably the most persistent and hardy mixture available; Lambhill® has proven performance in all sorts of harsh conditions; from mountain sides to lowland peat bogs.

Although in good fertile soils it will never be as productive as mixtures such as Castlehill®, it excels in marginal conditions and many users have been surprised by its productivity on sites that they had nearly given up on!

As well as sheep production, Lambhill® is also suitable for beef cattle.

**Suggested seed rate: 13 - 18kg/acre (33 - 45kg/ha)**



### MATRIX SHEEP & LAMB

This mixture has been specially formulated for grazing by sheep and lambs.

Our involvement with the All Grass Out-wintering project, led by the SAC Sheep Specialist; John Vipond and EBLEX, encouraged us to develop grass and clover mixtures for Cell Grazing and "Holistic" grazing systems. Matrix based mixtures have the ability to grow at lower temperatures than ryegrass, so they are ideally suited to these systems.

Matrix Sheep and Lamb mixture includes Cheviot white clover blend, which was developed after much research on intensive lamb production.

**Suggested seed rate: 12.5kg/acre (31kg/ha)**



### CASTLEHILL®

Castlehill® is a long term ley with rock solid performance. Suitable for most soil types and climates, it produces an excellent feed for all classes of livestock. With superb disease resistance, Castlehill® delivers the performance of a medium term ley combined with the persistence of a long term ley. The inclusion of the Tweed® clover blend makes it especially suitable for lamb production.

We can also supply Castlehill® with the appropriate percentage of organic seed to meet the current regulations.

**Suggested seed rate: 13 - 18kg/acre (33 - 45kg/ha)**



### EXTRA LAMB

A popular and very productive medium term mixture that affords intensive lamb production at low cost. The sward of this mixture is very dense and varieties have been especially selected for their tolerance of close grazing. The inclusion of Cheviot white clover blend, which was developed to finish lambs faster, also fixes valuable atmospheric nitrogen.

Extra Lamb also has the capability of producing up to two heavy cuts of silage, and has a productive lifespan of at least five years.

**Suggested seed rate: 13 - 18kg/acre (33 - 45kg/ha)**



### LAMBTASTIC - NEW MIXTURE

This mixture is an adaptation of work done in New Zealand to exploit the lamb finishing attributes of deep rooted forage chicory and plantain, combined with the well understood complementary properties of white clover.

The inclusion of Matrix Enhanced® Ryegrass, combined with Timothy and Early Perennial Ryegrass all give the sward a sprint start in the spring, making it ideal for early lambing.

Lambtastic remains very productive throughout the summer and well in to the autumn and can be utilised by all types of livestock.

**Suggested seed rate: 11 - 13kg/acre (27 - 32kg/ha)**

