

Irwin Hunter & Co, Suite 11/88 Forrest Street, Cottesloe,  
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# DARGO ANNUAL RYEGRASS

## Dargo, a high performing annual ryegrass

**Dargo** is an early to mid season maturing Italian type annual ryegrass that has been successfully sown in Western Australia in ever increasing quantities reflecting its consistently high yields across a range of environments and farming systems.

**Dargo** can be sown in a wide range of soils types in areas that have 400mm of annual winter based rainfall making it more tolerant of dryer conditions than other similar annual ryegrass options.

**Dargo** has the following attributes:

- Has excellent early establishment vigour
- Excellent winter and spring production
- High quality forage throughout the growing season
- High production where good fertiliser practises are adopted
- Is very responsive to nitrogen applications
- Has high tolerance to leaf rust
- Suited grazing, silage and hay

To optimise the yields from **Dargo** annual ryegrass the following recommendations will provide a guide applicable to a range of situations:

- Ensure there is adequate moisture to initiate germination and support the plant through the early stages of growth
- Ensure adequate P, K, S, fertiliser is applied at the time of sowing to support the estimated production over winter
- To improve tiller density lightly graze at 6 to 8 cm high or when the plant cannot be

easily pulled out by grazing animals

- Continue to graze on a rotational basis throughout the balance of the winter and spring grazing at between 10 and 15 cm
- High apply up to 25 units of Urea after the first and subsequent grazings prior to shutting up for hay
- If shutting up for silage, haylage or hay, apply the required fertiliser to balance the potential nutrient loss from the respective crop

By adopting a rotational grazing system and sound fertiliser management practises **Dargo annual ryegrass** can consistently produce high yields of dry matter over the growing period. This has the potential to provide significant income over and above the production normally achieved from a Wimmera based pasture. In the *Irwin Hunter & Co experimental area* at Waroona, **Dargo annual ryegrass** was the best performing of the Diploid ryegrasses over the winter and spring periods.

**Dargo** recommended sowing rate: minimum of 20 and up to 30 kgs/ha in rainfall zones above 500mm plus accompanying clovers. (Increased sowing rates will increase pasture production where supported with increased fertiliser and rainfall). In the lower rainfall zones of 400-500mm 10 kgs/ha is sufficient.

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