



Pasture Seeding & Establishment

Sam Taylor – March 2023



Pasture Establishment

Seedbed / Paddock Preparation

Seeding Timing

Seeding Method

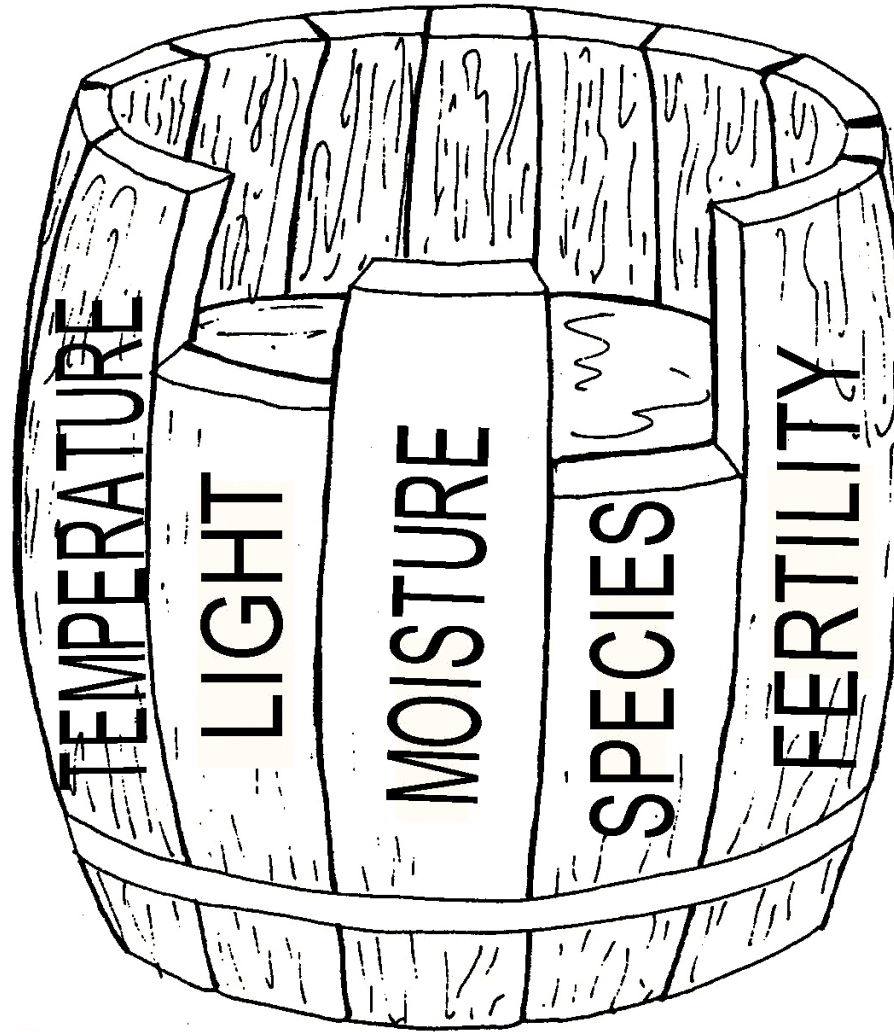
Depth / Seed to soil Contact

Nutrition / Fertility

Grazing



What limits your system?



Seedbed / Paddock Preparation

Weed control the year before – silage / hay-freeze / topping etc.

Heavy grazing / removal of stubble in Autumn

Encourage weed germination prior to sowing and control / remove

Harrowing

Cultivation

Seed Bed Tilth



Establishment - Timing

Dry sown

- Early establishment
- Warmer soil temp
- Before red legs emerge?
- More weed competition

Wet Sown

- Cleaner seed bed
- Improved establishment % - ?
- Better seed placement / even soil through
- Slower growth rates

Establishment - Method

Drilled / Sown

- Accurate seed placement
- Improve seed soil contact (press wheels)
- Competition within seed row / line
- Grading weed seed away from sown line

Top-dressed

- Distribution more even across area (maybe)
- Less control over seed depth
- Damage to seed from spinners
- Generally lower establishment %

DIRECTION
Unavailable

33.43748°S
115.71059°E

ACCURACY 96 m
DATUM WGS84



T+ drilled

11/6/20, 12:42:16 pm



DIRECTION
Unavailable

33.43730°S
115.71033°E

ACCURACY 10 m
DATUM WGS84



T+ topdressed

11/6/20, 12:44:27 pm





DIRECTION
Unavailable

33.43730°S
115.71054°E

ACCURACY 5 m
DATUM WGS84



Nutrien

Drilled clover

26/10/20,
8:20:13 am

DIRECTION
Unavailable

33.43728°S
115.71034°E

ACCURACY 5 m
DATUM WGS84



Nutrien

Topdressed
clover

26/10/20,
8:19:45 am



Establishment - Depth

Understand the seed mix and variation in seed size

smaller clovers 1-2 mm seed size – seed at 10-13mm

larger legumes 5-6 mm seed size (maybe bigger) – possibly deeper

grasses have longer coleoptiles – seed at 20-25mm

Top-dressed

variation in seed placement / uneven covering from harrowing etc

Some too deep, some too shallow, wet / dry

Drilled

even depth more easily achieved with good set up / paddock preparation

Establishment – Nutrition / Fertility

Know your soil levels!!

Drilled Fertiliser

- Better availability in furrow when fertiliser sown with seed
- Potential toxicity close to seed on drying soils if rate too high

Top dressed Fertiliser

- Graded away into inter-row if top dressed in front
- May fall into furrow if top dressed later
- Less soluble products may stay above the root zone

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We've covered all of this!! – now what??



Monitor, Monitor, Monitor,

Regardless of establishment method

3 days + after seeding, then every 2nd day

Emergence – even, depth of seed, furrow fill

Pests (RLEM, Lucerne Flea, Cut Worm, Black beetle)

Weeds – excessive competition needs early intervention

Disease – uncommon in pastures but can happen

Get the grazing right!!

Figure 5: Leaf and root development in ryegrass cut at 1, 2 and 3 leaves.

