

**Rotational grazing on sown ryegrass and grazing oats compared to self
regenerating annual pasture**
Don Nairn, east Binu, 2004/05

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Don sowed a paddock as a trial with individual strips of 3 grazing oats and 3 ryegrass varieties on 4 May 2004. This 115 ha paddock and an adjoining 71 ha paddock were strip grazed by sheep from the 11 June 2004. These paddocks were strip grazed using a 'wrappa' portable electric fence. The sheep were moved every 3 to 8 days.

Records were kept of the class and numbers of animals in the mob and the date of the moves. Carrying capacity for the full year was calculated as the Dry Sheep Equivalents (DSE) per hectare and total DSE grazing days per hectare. Grazings days were also kept from an adjoining self regenerating pasture that was grazed normally. Figures cover the 12 month period from 31 March 2004 to 31 March 2005.

The amount of ground cover was assessed in the autumn of 2005 (21 March). The normal annual paddock was almost completely bare (9% ground cover) and suffering from wind erosion despite carrying only 0.4 DSE/ha. The grazing oats still had more than enough ground cover (77%) to prevent erosion even though it had carried 7.2 DSE/ha or almost 20 times as many sheep.

Pasture	Grazing	Total DSE grazing days/ha	DSE/ha/year	% ground cover
Sown ryegrass & grazing oats	Strip grazing	2,617	7.2	71% (Oats) 33% (Ryegrass)
Self regenerating	Whole paddock	141	0.4	9%

Pasture production

Measurements were taken of the growth of pasture from the ryegrass and grazing oat varieties on the 16 June 2004. This was 30 days after germination.

	kg/ha	Growth rate kg/ha/day
Taipan oats	624	21
Grazer 50 oats	506	17
Pallinup oats	604	20
Safe guard ryegrass	270	9
Warrior ryegrass	330	11
Drummer ryegrass	350	12