

User Guide for the Northland Agricultural Research Library (NARL) Pasture Growth Rate Library

What is it?

The pasture growth rate library is a tool making it easier for you to find and use pasture growth rate information from Northland. The tool also allows you to find growth rates which are most applicable to your farm by refining the list based on things like soil fertility, pasture species and soil type.

How can I get it?

The latest version of the pasture growth rate library can be downloaded from the Enterprise Northland website:

http://enterprisenorthland.co.nz/dev_groups/pastoral/index.htm

You will need Microsoft Excel to run the program. Versions older than Excel 5.0 will still work but may not show all the information correctly.

How Do I Use It?

The library is a simple spreadsheet which can be easily organised to help you find the pasture growth rates which are most applicable to you. At the top of the page are column headings including:

Farm Type:	Dairy or Sheep/Beef
Soil Type:	Clay, Podzol, Sand or Volcanic
Soil Fertility:	Low (Olsen P less than 15), Medium (Olsen P 15 – 30), or High (Olsen P more than 30)
Pasture Species:	Kikuyu, New Grass, Rye/Kikuyu, Ryegrass
Nitrogen:	Yes (may have nitrogen rate applied) or No
Location:	Where the growth rates were taken
Assessment Method:	Cages (cuts taken from cages) or via pasture cover
Other:	Irrigated or contour/aspect information
Year:	Year(s) of pasture analysis recording
Months:	Monthly pasture growth rate in KGDM/ha/day Months run from June - May
Total:	Annual drymatter produced in the year (KgDM/ha)

How do I find growth rates which are similar to my farm?

There are too many pasture growth rate records for you to easily find the growth rates which fit your farm. There are two tools which make it easier for you to find the growth rates; auto-filter and summary information.

Filtering the records you want using Auto-Filter:

A function called auto-filter allows you to identify growth rates which are most appropriate to your conditions. You can choose to filter the lists based on one or more categories (e.g. kikuyu farms with medium soil fertility). This helps you refine the list to make it more applicable for your farm.

Click on the auto filter arrow to the right of the column heading and a drop down menu will appear for example in the picture below, the drop down menu is showing for the Farm Type column.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Farm Type	Soil Ty	Soil Fertil	Pasture Specif	Nitrog	Location
	Sort Ascending	Clay	Medium	Ryegrass	Yes	Ararua
	Sort Descending	Clay	High	Ryegrass	No	Dargaville
	(All)	Clay	High	Ryegrass	130kg N	Dargaville
	(Top 10...)	Clay	High	Kikuyu	130kg N	Dargaville
	(Custom...)	Clay	High	Ryegrass	Yes	Dargaville
	Dairy	Clay	High	Ryegrass	Yes	Dargaville
	Sheep/Beef	Clay	High	Ryegrass	Yes	Dargaville
8	Dairy	Clay	High	Ryegrass	Yes	Dargaville
9	Dairy	Clay	High	Ryegrass	Yes	Dargaville

The drop down menu gives you a range of options:

- Sort Ascending and Descending: allows you to change the order of the records on number or alphabetically
- All: Shows all the records
- Top 10: Displays records with the 10 highest values in the column
- Custom: You can choose your own options for displaying records or

Most Popular Option:

- You can choose to display just those records which you are interested in, in the example above you can choose just Dairy or just Sheep/Beef.

This is the most useful function; all records which don't display what you are interested in just disappear from the page. To bring them back click the drop down menu again and select the (All) option.

If you are filtering using column headings the auto filter arrow turns blue.

Example:

You can use auto filter on more than one column, for example, you might want to find records from dairy farms with ryegrass without any nitrogen:

Select *Dairy* from the drop down menu box in the **Farm Type** Column, *Ryegrass* from the drop down menu in the **Pasture Species** column and *No* from the drop down menu in the **Nitrogen** Column. The screen should look like this:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
Farm Type	Soil Type	Soil Fertil	Pasture Species	Nitrogen	Location	Assessment Meth	Other	Year	Jun	Jul	Aug	
Dairy	Clay	High	Ryegrass	No	Dargaville	Cuts		1949-1960	25	25	33	
Dairy	Podzol	Medium	Ryegrass	No	Kaiwaka	Cages		1970	15	9	20	
									Month	Jun	Jul	Aug
									Average	20	17	27
									Lowest	15	9	20
									Highest	25	25	33
									2 Records found			

Blue arrow indicates filters are in place

Indicates 2 records matched the search

Summary Information:

At the bottom right of the spreadsheet is a tool which provides some information about the records which survived the filtering process, as shown in the picture below:

F97	Kerikeri										
	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
1	Location	Assessment Meth	Other	Month	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
96	Kerikeri	Cage/Cover		1999/00	18	18	11	21	29	35	32
97	Kerikeri	Cage/Cover	No Irrigation	1994/2000	30	21	26	34	47	50	34
98	Kerikeri	Cage/Cover	Irrigation	1994/2000	30	23	23	35	51	57	48
99											
100				Month	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
101	97 Records found			Average	21	18	24	36	48	51	40
102				Lowest	4	3	3	4	22	27	11
103				Highest	42	39	65	87	91	86	78

Record Summary

This tool only looks at the records which survive the filtering process.

- Average displays the average of the records
- Highest displays the highest pasture growth rate for the month
- Lowest displays the lowest pasture growth rate for the month

We hope this tool helps you with your farm management decision making. This tool will be updated as more pasture growth information becomes available. Don't forget to check out the popular summaries and research stock-takes on the Enterprise Northland Website.