

## Forage Oats

*Forage oats are a popular option to supplement pasture and other crops in animal production systems. They have several outstanding features:*



### **Highly productive**

They have high growth rates that give them the ability to produce high yields quickly – much better than pasture and better than most other forage crops, especially in declining autumn temperatures.



### **High quality**

They produce high-quality feeds that lead to excellent animal performance.



### **Versatile**

They can be sown year-round to produce supplementary feeds with various uses that fit into different phases of farming systems.



### **Resilient**

They tolerate unfavourable conditions, such as cooler temperatures and limited availability of water or nutrients, better than many other crops. Also, they utilise water and nutrient resources efficiently, and continue to grow well as availability of resources declines.



*Intimidator is an exciting new single-harvest forage oat that has all these features which make it a compelling choice for discerning New Zealand farmers.*



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# Intimidator Forage Oats



## Intimidator Forage Oats

Intimidator is a versatile new forage oat with excellent yield and quality. It delivers superior economic value, can be sown throughout the year, has very good frost tolerance, and can be utilised for grazing or made into high-quality hay, green-chop silage or whole-crop silage.

It was bred in Oregon, USA specifically for forage production. It has become popular quickly there because of its high productivity, versatility, preference for it by livestock, and high palatability and performance by animals consuming it.

### Intimidator is suitable for multiple uses in New Zealand farming systems:

- Early to late winter grazing when sown from Feb to May
- Harvested for green silage in early spring when sown in autumn – this is an ideal fit between successive maize crops
- Harvested for hay, green-chop silage or whole-crop silage in spring or summer when sown in winter or spring. In this context its yield and quality may be enhanced by mixing it with a forage legume that has a compatible maturity such as Provider or Flex peas

Table 1. Quality of Intimidator and Milton forage oats

Cultivar	ME (MJ/kgDM)	Protein Content (%DM)	Soluble Sugar Content (%DM)	Starch (%DM)	ADF (%DM)	NDF (%DM)	DOMD (%DM)
Intimidator	9.2	7.9	16.4	3.0	31.7	50.5	57.2
Milton	9.4	5.8	19.6	4.1	30.6	50.0	58.9

Notes:  
1. Data from the field trial conducted by New Zealand Arable  
2. Quality assessments done by Hill Laboratories



## Superior Yields

The outstanding feature of Intimidator is its capacity to produce superior yields quickly. Its high yield potential in New Zealand has been demonstrated in initial paddock-scale test crops.

Its superiority was confirmed in a spring-sown replicated field trial in Canterbury in which Intimidator yielded significantly more than Milton and Coronet forage oats (22% and 17% respectively, see graph).

### Intimidator produces a high quality forage that is consistent with its growth habit:

- It is a tall upright plant with large stems, long wide leaves, a high leaf to stem ratio, and medium maturity
- Care is needed with management of inputs to minimise the risk of lodging in the event of high winds and/or heavy rain
- Quality is not compromised by its high yield – its quality attributes were similar to lower-yielding Milton oats in the field trial (see table)
- Intimidator has very good frost tolerance because of its large stems, and it grows well in cool conditions

3. Values are means of four replicates  
4. ME = metabolisable energy, ADF and NDF = Acid and Neutral Detergent Fibre, DOMD = digestibility of organic matter in dry matter

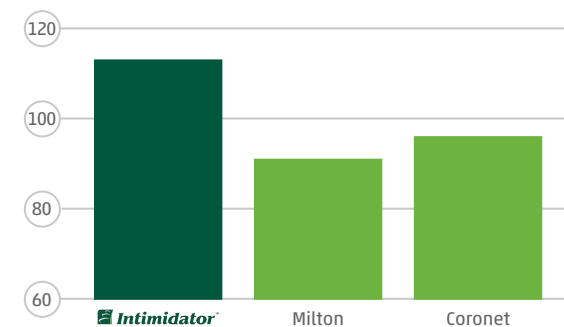


## Economic Benefits

In addition to its performance features, especially its superior productivity and versatility, choosing Intimidator also makes good economic sense – it delivers a good return on investment because of its higher yield. Production costs per ha are similar to other cultivars, so the cost per kg of dry matter is lower.

Seed is a small part of the overall cost of production, especially compared with larger costs such as cultivation and fertiliser. Based on current values and the yields from the trial, Intimidator seed costs only about 1.25 cents per kg of dry matter produced. Its yield advantage in the trial meant that Intimidator gave a 31% higher economic return on the investment in seed than Milton.

Relative total dry matter yields of three forage oat cultivars



Notes:  
1. Data from an independent field trial conducted by New Zealand Arable at Yaldhurst  
2. Oats sown at 110 kg per ha on 7th September, harvested on 4th January  
3. Values are means of four replicates, 100 = 10090 kg DM/ha, LSD = 12.6%