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## Evaluation of annual and short term rotation ryegrasses.

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**TITLE:** Evaluation of annual and short term rotation ryegrasses

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## Evaluation of annual and short term rotation ryegrasses.

The increasing range of annual and short term rotation ryegrasses have been evaluated in the high rainfall regions of the South West since 1986. To date promising later maturing cultivars such as Concord (in particular), Progrow, Aristocrat have consistently outyielded the standard early maturing cultivar Wimmera during the early winter period and in spring.

These later maturing varieties have the potential to more fully utilise the whole of the growing season and to be conserved as hay during drier spring weather, whilst still retaining digestibility, protein and metabolisable energy. Viable seed production for self regeneration from later cut hay pastures is often low yielding when compared with the early seed production of Wimmera.

Ryegrass research is continuing to evaluate this seasonal yield of experimental lines in addition to the recently released cultivars over a wide range of soil types in the Harvey, Bunbury, Busselton and Manjimup areas. More specific ryegrass research is aimed at:

- (a) sowing techniques ie. control of spring seed set in the year prior to sowing, direct drilling into newly germinating mixed pastures, conventional cultivation/sowing.
- (b) second year regeneration.
- (c) black beetle control at sowing.