



## **Establishing pastures - Readers' Note**

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## Disease control before sowing

Selecting disease-resistant varieties, where they are available, is the most economic way of avoiding disease and gives the most productive and persistent pastures. Selecting disease-resistant varieties of legumes will minimise damage from phytophthora root rot in lucerne and subclovers, crown rot and bacterial wilt in subclover, scorch in subclover, clover stunt in subclover, and rugose leaf curl in white clover. Selecting disease-resistant varieties of grasses will minimise damage from rust in ryegrass and from kikuyu yellows in kikuyu.

Crop rotations are very important in breaking the life cycle of some diseases. Growing a different species leaves no host for diseases to live on.

When a lucerne paddock thins out it is important to kill all lucerne plants and to introduce a grass crop before sowing lucerne again. The crop could be oats, barley, triticale, wheat, millet, forage sorghum or maize. Suitable species to

follow a grass crop include lucerne, cowpeas and soybeans.

Planting more than one species will reduce the chance of significant loss of the pasture to disease, although there will be some diseases with a wide host range.

### Further reading

Agfact P2.5.13, *Lucerne Varieties 1995–96*

Agfact P2.5.16, *Subterranean Clover in NSW—Identification and Use*

Agfact P2.AB.1, *Diseases of Lucerne*

Agfact P2.AB.2, *Diseases of Clover*

Agfact P2.AB.3, *Kikuyu Yellows*

Agnote DPI 64, *Goulburn Subterranean Clover*

Agnote DPI 65, *Denmark Subterranean Clover*

Agnote DPI 66, *Leura Subterranean Clover*

Agnote DPI 92, *Phytophthora Root Rot in Sub-Clover*

