Establishing pastures - Readers’ Note

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For many plant diseases the only suitable control is to sow resistant or tolerant varieties. Chemical control of diseases in pastures is usually expensive and is seldom used except in specialist situations such as seed crops.

- Keep plants healthy and reduce stress by giving adequate moisture and nutrients.
- Correct any nutrient deficiencies. Appropriate fertiliser rates and timing will help plants to resist diseases.
- Don’t let pastures become rank as disease can build up. The increased humidity within the canopy also helps disease development.

Good grazing management can help in slowing disease development:
- Do not move stock directly from infected areas to clean areas.
- Removing the diseased tissue by grazing can often help to restrict disease spread.

Correct identification of the disease is important.