



NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Establishing pastures - Readers' Note

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<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/dairy-cattle/feed/publications/establishing-pastures>

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Common pasture problems

Problem	The most common causes
Cows are pulling out ryegrass plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak root system from repeated grazing • Fungal diseases • Scarabs • Soil compaction • Variety of ryegrass
Clover seedlings have disappeared	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slugs • Damping-off • Molybdenum deficiency (leaves turn red or purple first)
Oversowing of ryegrass into clover was unsuccessful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition—it is important to graze heavily • Timing—sow the ryegrass when clover is not growing
Oversowing of white clover into grass pasture was unsuccessful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition—it is important to graze heavily and spray with glyphosate or paraquat to suppress the grass • Clover is best dropped on moist ground with harrows and rolled. Moisture must be maintained in the topsoil
Pasture is yellow and lacks growth and vigour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterlogging • Nitrogen deficiency • Cold • Disease
Pasture seedlings are stressed. The grass leaves are dry. Some plants have turned white	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red-legged earth mite • Blue oat mite
Poor legume growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed must be correctly inoculated before sowing
Lucerne and clover seedlings turn red or purple and die	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Molybdenum deficiency • Incorrect inoculation of the seed—e.g. using sodium molybdate instead of molybdenum trioxide
Within 6 months of establishment, pastures thin out, especially clovers and lucerne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potassium deficiency
White clover growth been disappointing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry winter weather affects the most popular white clover, Haifa, which relies on good winters and springs before seeding down
Poor clover growth in a pasture mix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phosphate deficiency
Cows suffer nitrate poisoning when they graze oats or ryegrass in winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too much N fertiliser when overcast weather prevails • Molybdenum is deficient and the plants cannot incorporate N into their tissues. Instead, they store N, and nitrate poisoning results

