



SWARD ESTABLISHMENT METHOD & INCREASING SWARD DIVERSITY



Our Sward Establishment plots are in their third year and showing the benefits of direct drilling and increasing sward diversity

In May 2019 PROSOILplus established swards by 3 methods to test how we can improve resilience to extreme weather conditions:

- Plough and cultivate after glyphosate
- Direct drill after glyphosate
- Direct drill without glyphosate
- Compared to existing sward

Ploughed

18000

16000



Red Clover

P. Ryegrass

Existing

Sward

Two sowing mixtures were evaluated (kg/ha):

P. Ryegrass Red Clover	26.0 7.5
or	
P. Ryegrass	11.0

11.0
7.5
7.5
7.5

Outcomes

All re-sown plots produced twice as much forage compared to existing sward

Yields of direct drilled swards were similar to ploughed and cultivated swards

Without herbicide, sown grasses were outcompeted by existing grasses

The addition of cocksfoot improved resilience by increasing forage yield

Timothy 14000 Cocksfoot eq 12000 10000 8000 White Clover Weed Grass B.L. Weeds Yield 6000 4000 2000 0

Plots were cut 4 times annually, simulating a silage system

Second Harvest Year Dry matter Yields 2021

PRG RC PRG RC PRG RC PRG RC PRG RC PRG RC T & C T & C T & C

D. Drill after

Glyphosate

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D. Drill into

Existing Sward