BEET

Growing guide summary

There's a beet for every farm

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Fodder & sugar beet

Beet is one of the highest yielding, highest quality crops you can grow and it's a great investment. But like everything in life, there's give and take.

Beet does require planning and preparation in advance and more care and attention during growth than lower yielding crops. But it's not too difficult and it will definitely pay off.

Beet management

Paddock selection :

- Ideally identify paddocks a year in advance

- Choose one with a known chemical history, optimum nutrient availability and that can be prepared to an acceptable standard

- Don't choose a paddock where chemicals such as post emergence herbicides for brassicas, sulfonyl urea, chlosulfuron, atrazine and mesotrione have been used in the past two years

- Never double crop fodder beet as this will result in significant problems

- Aim for a pH of 6.2 at planting and determine what other key nutrients are present

Paddock preparation

First cultivation

The roots of beet can go down as far as 1.5m to access deep moisture so make sure there's nothing beneath the surface of the paddock that will get in the way of these.

Dig a soil inspection pit to see if there is any hard compacted soil. If so, this will need breaking up.

After spraying out, use a subsoiler/ripper (if required) set to a depth of 50mm max below the compacted soil.

Main cultivation

Do this well before planting to allow soil weathering and a weed flush.

Be patient for the right conditions to allow working and try to group workings within a few days of each other so as not to lose too much moisture.

Apply base fertiliser

Do this after the main cultivation and aim for level finish.

Apply at least one week prior to planting so you don't burn the emerging seedlings. If you don't have a week, apply half before and half after planting.

What you apply will depend on the soil test from the paddock selection stage; ensure you include key elements for best plant establishment and growth. This application should include the first third of the nitrogen (N) required.

Incorporate with the final surface workings.

Final cultivations

A fine, firm and moist seedbed is essential.

Do not over cultivate or compact the seedbed.

Do no more than two passes with a maximum depth of 75mm.

Use straight tine equipment to avoid overworking.

Use low tyre pressures to minimise compaction.

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BRIGADIER

Mangel fodder beet

- Traditional polyploid mangel type fodder beet with orange roots
- Excellent versatility suiting a range of systems
- The highest proportion of bulb above ground than any other commercially available variety
- True mangel type with the lowest bulb DM% available (Up to 13%)
- Exceptional utilisation by any class of stock
- Carry's good levels of quality leaf into the cooler months

Feed available

Substantial yield of high quality grazing or self-harvested beet

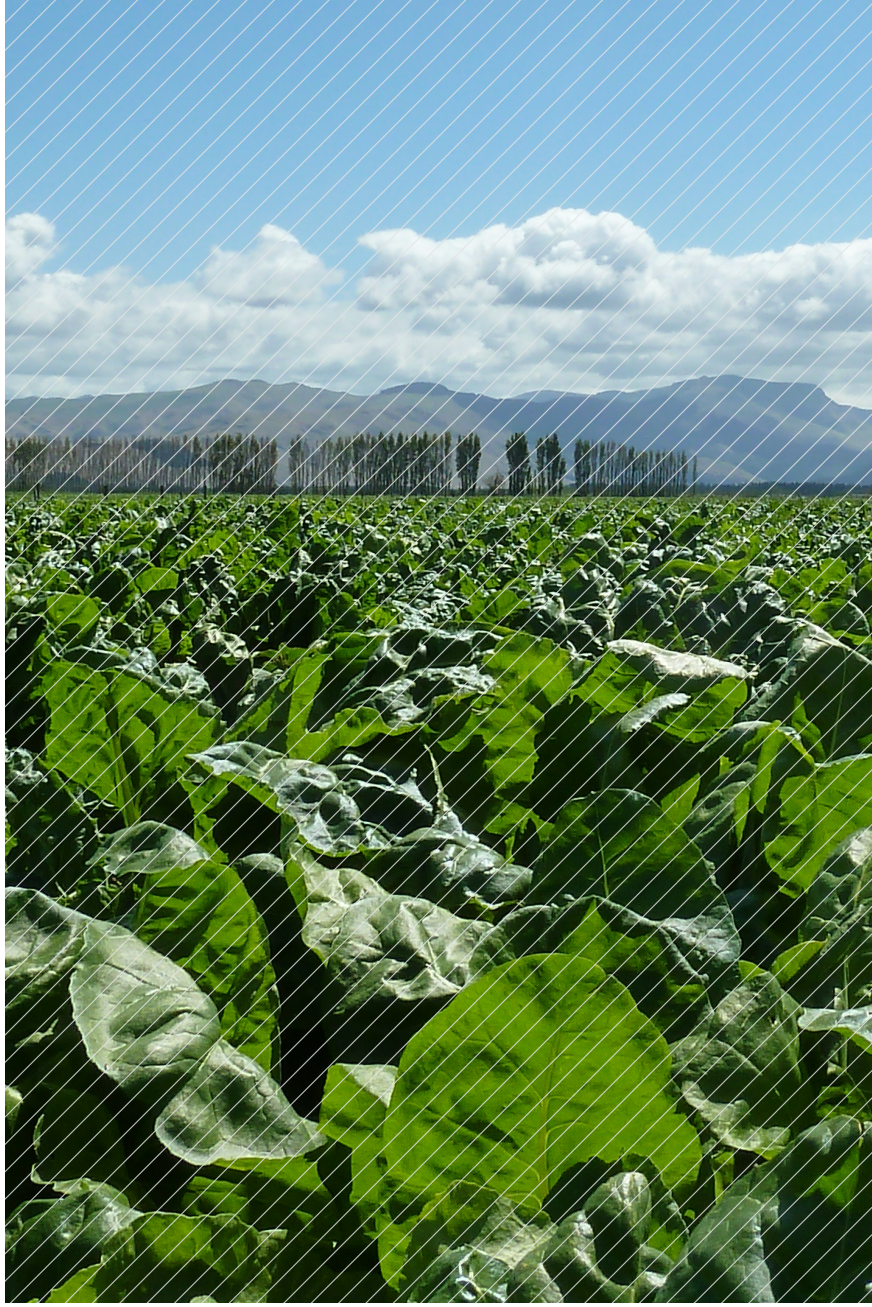
Stock suitability

All stock types

Sowing rate

90,000 - 100,000 Seeds/ha

using precision sowing equipment



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1505Bv

Medium - high DM fodder beet

- Genetic monogerm fodder beet with uniform tubular bulbs
- Relatively high proportion of bulb above ground
- Really suits intensive grazing systems, especially dairy
- High leaf retention and quality
- Provides the flexibility of either grazing or self harvesting

Feed available

Substantial yield of high quality grazing or self-harvested beet

Stock suitability

All stock types

Sowing rate

80,000 - 100,000 Seeds/ha

using precision sowing equipment

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MINOTAURE

Medium - high DM fodder beet

- Genetic monogerm hybrid
- Medium - high dry matter
- Can be grazed in-situ or harvested and fed
- High leaf quality and uniformity

Utilise Minotaure's versatility across a range of farm systems. From in-situ grazing to full mechanical harvesting, it's sure to impress with its in field performance. Minotaure is very well suited to New Zealand conditions and end uses.

Feed available

Substantial yield of high quality grazing or self-harvested beet

Stock suitability

All types whether grazed in-situ or harvested

Sowing rate for grazing / self harvesting

80,000 - 100,000 Seeds/ha

using precision sowing equipment

Sowing rate for harvesting

100,000 - 120,000 Seeds/ha

using precision sowing equipment

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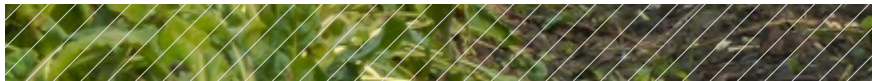


SUGA 3.0

Very high DM harvesting beet

- Superior beet genetics
- Uniform establishment and plant size
- Even crown height
- Very high dry matter for high yields and maximum storability
- High utilisation in all feeding systems
- For farmers wanting maximum flexibility and returns from their beet system
- It's high energy is a perfect low cost feed addition

Feed available

Substantial yield of high quality harvested beet - can be stored and fed in any season

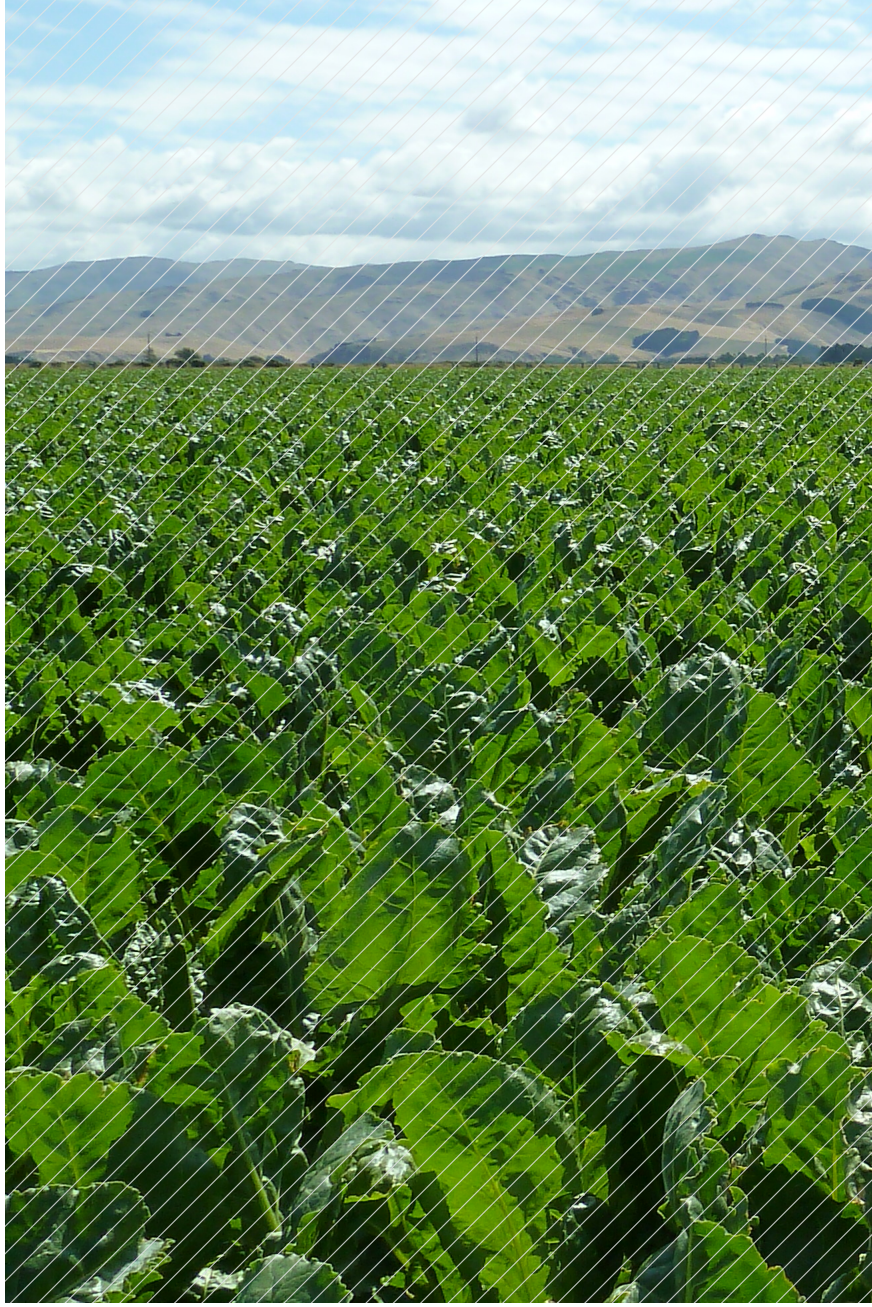
Stock suitability

All stock types when lifted and fed. In some systems it may be beneficial to chip

Sowing rate

100,000 - 120,000 Seeds/ha

using precision sowing equipment. Ensure drill row spacing is set to suit the mechanical harvester being used - consult your harvesting contractor.



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Beet management

Establishment :

Sowing

Plant after the risk of frosts has ended, generally September to November is the best time for planing, possibly earlier in the North Island.

Precision plant seeds 20 mm deep into moisture and no deeper than 25 mm if losing moisture.

Plant at a maximum ground speed of 6 kph so you don't bounce the planter units, which causes uneven depth spacing between seeds.

Plant 90,000 to 100,000 seeds/ha for in-situ grazing and 110,000 - 120,000 seeds/ha for machine harvested crops.

Pre-establishment

After planting apply post plant / pre-emergence herbicide.

Post-establishment

Correct timing for any application is crucial. For maximum control target weeds that emerge early before they steal light, moisture and nutrients the crop needs.

Beet management

Growing :

Fertiliser / fungicide applications

Fully expanded cotyledon nitrogen should be the second third of the crop's N requirements. If you miss the timing of this stage wait until the plant's eight-leaf stage to avoid plant burn.

This application optimises plant growth and leaf expansion so the crop can cover the ground as quickly as possible, which means it gets as much light as possible during its development.

Right before the canopy closes, apply the final third of N.

Use registered fungicides at their recommended timings to maintain a healthy canopy. Make sure you adhere to grazing withholding periods too.

Bolters

To manage any bolters in the crop, either break the stem before flowering or remove the whole plant from the field after flowering.

It is really important to control bolters or it could mean you can't grow beet in that paddock again for a number of years.

The technical data mentioned in this document comes from tests carried out by RAGT. The results obtained may vary according to agronomic and climatic conditions, as well as specific cultivation techniques. In any event, the technical data provided is for information purposes only and does not bind RAGT contractually.