

# Beet Guide

There's an RAGT Beet  
for every farm system



think  
SOLUTIONS  
think RAGT





# GLOBAL SCIENCE, PROVEN LOCAL PERFORMANCE, TO HELP FARMERS THRIVE



think  
**SOLUTIONS**  
think RAGT



**AT RAGT, WE REWROTE  
THE RULE BOOK ON BEETS  
AND REINTRODUCED THEM  
BACK INTO NEW ZEALAND  
FARMING SYSTEMS.**

## **SUPPORTED BY OUR RETAIL PARTNERS, OUR SPECIALISED BEET SYSTEMS ARE PAYING DIVIDENDS FOR FARMERS ALL OVER NEW ZEALAND.**

We're pushing the boundaries of traditional use and the full potential of this exciting crop is finally being realised.

Compared to any other typical feed source, beet's cost, quality, utilisation and flexibility are hard to ignore, ensuring it can be included in most farming operations.

But that's just part of the story. At RAGT, we know it's what goes before and after sowing that makes a sustainable difference to a farming operation's productivity and profitability. So look beyond seed and discover the RAGT beet difference.

### **UNDERSTANDING BEET TYPES**

To choose the right beet, you have to start at the end.

- What is the specific end use of the beet?
- What animal is it for?
- What environment will it be grown in?

Understanding these is key to determining which beet type to choose and planning the crop area required. There are four beet categories within the species 'Beta vulgaris', each typically suited to an end use.

**“THE BEAST” WITH THE  
HIGHEST PROPORTION  
OF BULB ABOVE GROUND**

# RGT BRIGADIER

## ONE OF NZ'S FAVOURITE FODDER BEETS

### BOOST UTILISATION

Lowest bulb dry matter and highest proportion of bulb out of the ground means RGT Brigadier offers high utilisation. This means clean and easy grazing for stock with virtually no wastage.

### FLEXIBILITY WITH ALL STOCK CLASSES AND AGE



Animals from lambs through to dry cattle love eating RGT Brigadier. The bulb's low dry matter percentage means it's softer in animals' mouths making it highly preferable. This ease of intake translates to easier stock transition; animals won't linger in the back with empty bellies. If there is a surplus at the end of winter or a situation change, RGT Brigadier can be easily introduced to a wide range of stock classes, so the crop is not wasted.

### HIGHER PROTEIN LEVELS

Testing has shown that RGT Brigadier has the highest bulb protein levels compared to others. It also carries high leaf to bulb ratio, further contributing to protein intake. This is ideal for younger or lactating animals that have a higher protein content requirement.

### IDEAL CULTIVAR FOR AUTUMN MILKING

RGT Brigadier is a very economical option (compared to buying in supplementary feed). Because it provides more energy for animals, farmers' experience using it as an autumn crop has been positive for lifting, or at least holding milk production and increasing BCS of the cows heading into dry-off and the winter phase. When fed as part of the milking cows' diet, it balances the exceedingly high protein level of the pasture to reduce the overall protein/nitrogen eaten and ultimately excreted in urine and dung, therefore reducing the risk of N leaching through the soil profile.

<b>Feed available</b>	
<b>Stock suitability</b>	
<b>Sowing rate for in-situ grazing</b>	90K - 100K seeds/ha
<b>Harvest suitability</b>	Bucket
<b>DM %</b>	Very low DM%



**THE GREAT GRAZER  
- IDEAL FOR  
INTENSIVE SYSTEMS,  
ESPECIALLY DAIRY**



# RGT 1505BV

## GROWS HIGH YIELDS OF NUTRITIOUS FEED, OFFERING EXCELLENT RETURN ON INVESTMENT

### AN IDEAL OPTION FOR DAIRY CATTLE

This option will help farmers maximise return on investment as it has the same growing costs as a lower DM variety but produces higher yields. It is also a very easy to graze variety which means no extra costs are incurred in how it's fed out.

### YOU CAN TRUST IT WILL PERFORM FOR YOU



If given all the right management, RGT 1505BV is a beet that will provide excellent yield, with consistently high yields over the years. It has been used in over 30,000ha nationwide over a wide range of farming systems and environments so we know it's a proven performer.

### EXCELLENT LEAF HEALTH

An increase in leaf health means higher rates of photosynthesis, which ultimately improves yield. Healthy leaves also allow the plant to tolerate and recover from stressful events such as lack of moisture. And lots of tasty looking green leaf will appeal to animals too.

### VERSATILE VARIETY FOR GRAZING OR SELF-HARVESTING

The main use of RGT 1505BV is grazing in-situ. However, if needed it can be lifted and taken to animals during transition or winter grazing on pasture.

<b>Feed available</b>	
<b>Stock suitability</b>	
<b>Sowing rate for in-situ grazing</b>	80K - 100K seeds/ha
<b>Harvest suitability</b>	Bucket
<b>DM %</b>	Medium – High DM%

A large yellow and black harvester is shown in the middle ground, harvesting a vast field of green beets. The harvester has a long, articulated arm with a cutting head that is spraying water. The field is filled with rows of healthy, green beets. In the background, there is a line of tall evergreen trees under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is bright and clear.

**VERSATILE AS –  
GRAZE OR HARVEST**

# RGT MINOTAURE

## THE FODDER BEET THAT PRODUCES SIGNIFICANT YIELDS

### DUAL PURPOSE-BRED FOR GRAZING AND/OR LIFTING

Weather is unpredictable, whether it be too much or not enough moisture, sun and/or temperature; which is why RGT Minotaure's enhanced flexibility is great. It's been bred to be the ideal feed for either in-situ grazing or lifting – or a bit of both!

### USE AS A FLEXIBLE SUPPLEMENTARY FEED



As it can be grazed or lifted (depending on the winter conditions), RGT Minotaure is the ideal cultivar for the last fodder beet paddock to be grazed. But also consider lifting as it holds quality for longer, having a higher DM bulb. When lifting, uniformity of bulb makes for less wastage too.

### EXCELLENT LEAF QUALITY

Not only is lots of green leaf visually appealing for stock (and the farmer looking out over their fields), this beet's increased leaf health provides more yield due to higher rates of photosynthesis.

### HIGH YIELDS FROM ITS MEDIUM TO HIGH DRY MATTER

If high yield is being chased, all things being equal management wise, RGT Minotaure will provide reliably high yields, which means a great return on the upfront investment.

<b>Feed available</b>	
<b>Stock suitability</b>	
<b>Sowing rate for in-situ grazing</b>	80K - 100K seeds/ha
<b>Sowing rate for mechanical harvesting</b>	100K - 120K seeds/ha
<b>Harvest suitability</b>	Bucket and mechanical harvest
<b>DM %</b>	Medium – High DM%



**SPECIALIST BEET BRED  
FOR HARVESTING AND  
LONG-TERM STORABILITY**

# RGT SUGA 3.0

**HIGHLY NUTRITIOUS, EASY TO MANAGE,  
AND DELIVERS HIGH RETURNS**

## USE AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL AND PRODUCTION TOOL

RGT Suga 3.0 supports reduced nitrogen loss, and has a good carbohydrate ratio.

## EASE OF MANAGEMENT

Once harvested, RGT Suga 3.0 can be fed out. It can also be used as a transitional feed. Be sure to feed it out on pasture or in barns though, not bare soil.

## SOLELY USED FOR LIFTING AND FEEDING TO CATTLE



For farms requiring supplementary feed, this is a flexible, high quality choice. It's also extremely cost effective, with no extra costs for storage or ensiling (i.e., no silage wrap, inoculants, infrastructure) – just put it on the ground and it's good to go.

## HARVESTED OVER A WIDE TIMEFRAME

Unlike some other options, RGT Suga 3.0 gives farmers control over when they want to harvest it.

## VERY HIGH DRY MATTER

This is a great beet for storing as its high dry matter content means it holds its quality for longer, as opposed to feed with a high water content that degrades quickly.

<b>Feed available</b>	
<b>Stock suitability</b>	
<b>Sowing rate for mechanical harvesting</b>	100K - 120K seeds/ha
<b>Harvest suitability</b>	Bucket and mechanical harvest
<b>DM %</b>	Very high DM%

# EASY HOMEGROWN FEED

RAGT Beets offer a wide window for timing of harvest (lifting) allowing for good conditions for the drilling of late autumn crops/pasture. The harvesting can fit around farm timetables/requirements rather than the other way around.

Their high yielding nature, plus the ability to sow successive autumn crops/pasture gives very high production (TDM/ha) over a 12 month period, maximising the amount of farm grown feed per ha.

Wintering animals on lifted beet fed on pasture provides a good source of carbohydrates and protein, and helps negate potential N loss.

Like all high-yielding crops, to get the best results possible, beet crops require planning and preparation in advance, as well as care and attention during growth.

## SUPPLEMENTARY FEED COSTS

SUPPLEMENT	%DM	MJME/kgDM	Cents/kgDM*	Cents/ME
<b>ON-FARM GROWN FEED</b>				
BALEAGE	37%	10	45	4.5
SILAGE – MAIZE	35%	11	28	2.5
SILAGE – PASTURE	35%	11	33	3.0
FODDER/SUGAR BEET	20%	12.5	18	1.4
<b>PURCHASED CONCENTRATES</b>				
WHEAT	86%	12.5	55	4.4
BARLEY	86%	12.5	52	4.1
PKE	90%	11	46	4.2

\*THESE FIGURES ARE INDICATIVE OF MARKET VALUES BUT INTENDED TO BE USED AS A GUIDELINE ONLY.

## BETTER ON THE WALLET

# A HIGH QUALITY FEED

RAGT Beets are extremely cost effective (c/kg DM & Cents/ME) as they are one of the highest yielding, highest quality feed crops you can grow. While there is an investment upfront, the high returns make the overall cost quite low. Remember, all costs are relative to total yield so it is important to grow the best crops you can.

RAGT Beets offer very high-quality feed (>12.5 ME) and fantastic utilisation resulting in excellent animal production thanks to its high feed conversion (i.e., feed to protein - milk/body condition/growth).

In times when purchasing supplementary feed on the open market means a lack of certainty around pricing and supply, beets are well worth considering.

## BETTER ON THE ENVIRONMENT

# REDUCE NITRATE RISK

Because fodder beets have a high water-soluble carbohydrate to nitrogen ratio, both intake and excretion in urine is significantly less compared to high N crops.

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.

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