



Optimising summer grass

June 2018 saw record-breaking hot weather with many areas experiencing less than 10% of the normal rain fall. This is not good news for grass as drought stress reduces growth. AHDB's *Seasonal Grass Growth Rate* show growth is down 7kg DM/ha compared to last year, and significantly lower than the 2009-2017 average.

- A prolonged hot dry spell means drought stress is reducing grass growth and risk of heat stress for livestock
- Grass is naturally maturing and increasingly fibrous at this time of year, which reduces digestibility and palatability and, in turn, reduces DM intake
- This is exacerbated by the dry weather

Sodium - An essential livestock nutrient

- ✓ Sodium helps alleviate drought stress in grass by regulating salt balances and keeping cells turgid
- ✓ Sodium also increases sugar content making grass more palatable and increasing intakes
- ✓ Sodium also alleviates heat stress in livestock by regulating salt balances
- ✓ Apply little and often for grazing; also useful to include sodium for 2nd, 3rd, 4th cut silage

Sweet-Grass

Sweet-Grass is a high-N grassland fertiliser specifically designed to increase sward palatability and maximise milk and meat production from grass for optimum economic returns.

- ✓ **Sweet-Grass** improves palatability
- ✓ Improved palatability = increased intake
- ✓ Improved palatability = tighter grazing
- ✓ Increased intake and tighter grazing = optimum grass utilisation
- ✓ Improving palatability is particularly beneficial when grass becomes less digestible or following slurry application which can 'sour' pastures

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