



# **Bolton**

***Persistent Perennial Ryegrass***



***Sheep and Beef Variety***



***"Grown by Australians, for Australians"***



# Bolton

**Bolton Perennial Ryegrass** was developed and bred by Agriculture Victoria in conjunction with Vicseeds to produce a ryegrass variety to replace Victorian ryegrass (Vic rye). The breeding of Bolton involved collection of plants from very old stands of Victorian perennial ryegrass that had persisted for many years. Selections were made for improved dry matter production, persistence, and rust/disease resistance. All of this in low soil fertility situations. Evaluation trials were conducted near Balmoral, Bulart, Hamilton, and Rutherglen over a 6 year period, with 5% of lines progressing to form the parents of Bolton. Unlike Victorian, Bolton has a stable parentage and will perform equally as well in all regions each year.

Bolton Perennial Ryegrass was bred to:

- ✓ Produce more dry matter than Victorian
- ✓ Be as or more persistent than Victorian
- ✓ Be less affected by disease
- ✓ Have a much lower susceptibility to rust, so a lot less yellow paddocks.
- ✓ Have a similar flowering date
- ✓ Be a very cost effective replacement for Victorian

All the breeding and selection took place on low fertility soils. So the benefits can be seen in sheep/beef grazing regions where fertility is not high.

## Technical Detail

**Climate:** Bolton suits rainfall zones down to 550 mm rainfall.

**Sowing Rate:** sow Bolton at 12 – 15 kg/ha preferably as the only ryegrass. If sowing in a mix, sub clover and white clover would be good options. Sow the mix at 10 kg/ha

## Agronomic Details

Bolton is a true perennial ryegrass, not a hybrid. It was bred specifically for the sheep beef market as a replacement for Victorian, to be more productive and all breeding was done in low fertility soils. Bolton is not suitable for use in Dairy.



*Greg Stewart operates 'Werneth Park', a mixed farm at Werneth on the Western Plains of Victoria in a 450 – 500 mm rainfall zone. On about 600 hectares Greg runs a self replacing flock of 1000 merino sheep where he averages a lambing percentage of 85 – 90%. This year his maiden ewes lambed at a total average of 116%. Greg crops wheat and canola on 200 hectares and also runs a contract baling business.*

*For Greg finding a ryegrass that produces feed but more importantly is persistent is a big issue for him, so in autumn 2010 he decided to sow Bolton perennial ryegrass, an*

*Australian bred persistent variety, in a mix with sub clover.*

*Greg said "It grew magnificently, and even though you shouldn't, I just had to cut it for hay in the first year. It grew so well we ended up producing 150 tonne of round rolls off 16 ha."*

*On January 11th Greg's farm was inundated with flood water and Greg said "It was the biggest flood I have ever seen here, the last big one was in November 1995, and this time we ended up losing 5 km of fencing." The Bolton paddock which was under water has recovered well.*

*Greg said "We intend to sow down another 33 hectares next autumn and plan to use Bolton again."*

## DISTRIBUTORS

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