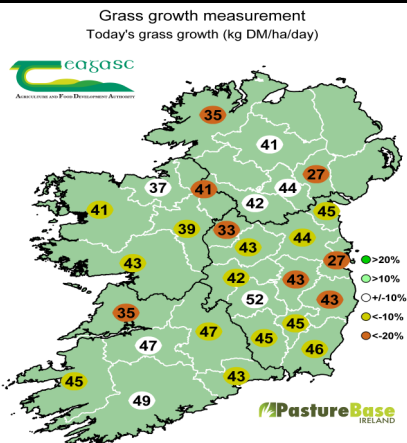


27th April 2021

PastureBase
IRELAND

| AFC | Stocking Rate | Cover/LU | Growth | Demand | Grass/Meal/Silage | Pre Grazing |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 716 kg DM/ha | 3.6 LU/ha | 200 kg DM/LU | 48 kg DM/ha | 50 kg DM/ha | 13.5kg/3.5kg/1kg | 1557 Kg DM/ha |

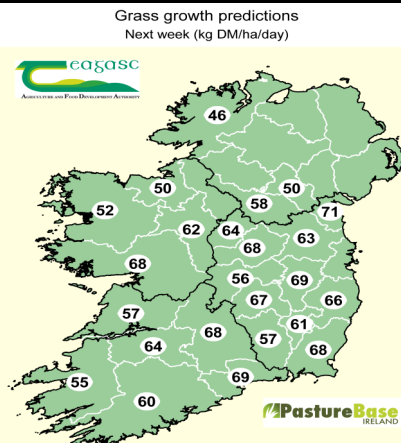


On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

On the right: counties map showing **predicted** grass growth over the next 7 days from farms involved in Elodie Ruelle's MoSt grass growth model (55 farms).

Predicted Growth Rate:

Ballyhaise 53 kg DM/ha
South Wexford 42 kg DM/ha
Athenry 62 kg DM/ha
Clonakilty 63 kg DM/ha



Keeping on top of Grass supply in Co. Mayo

Alan Duggan farms just outside Ballina in Co. Mayo. A new entrant to dairying in 2021, Alan will milk 73 cows this year on a 20 Ha milking platform with a further 20 ha of silage ground across a busy main road.

"This is my first year milking & also my first year measuring grass! I find walking the farm and entering data on PastureBase Ireland gives me useable feedback to make decisions on my farm, which has made life as a new entrant easier"

As we move into May, Alan has 3 objectives for managing grass throughout the mid season to ensure high animal performance

- 1) Walk the farm every 5 days and measure grass using PastureBase Ireland
- 2) An Average Farm Cover of 650 Kg DM/Ha or between 160/180 Kg DM/Lu
- 3) Pre grazing Covers of 1400-1500 Kg DM/Ha

Click here to view Alan's video:-

<http://bit.ly/DugganGrass10>



Alan Duggan, Mayo

Current performance

Grass Dry Matter %

Moorepark, Co. Cork

23% (1700 Kg DM/Ha)

Ballyhaise Co. Cavan

22% (1400 Kg DM/Ha)

| | |
|-----------------------|------|
| AFC (kg/ha) | 617 |
| Cover/LU (kg/LU) | 159 |
| Stocking Rate | 3.87 |
| Growth (kg/ha/day) | 65 |
| Demand (kg/ha/day) | 62 |
| Pre Grazing Yield | 1400 |
| Meal (kg /cow) | 2 |
| MS yield (kg/cow/day) | 1.75 |

Grass10 Management Tips

With a colder Northerly airflow for the week, growth rates on many farms with Average Farm Covers of <550 Kg DM/Ha are still struggling.

- 1) Hold rotation at 20 -22 days
- 2) Hold feeding levels until growth increases (match growth & demand)
- 3) Continue to walk farm every 5 days
- 4) Don't over graze cows, keep an eye on protein % as we approach breeding



Reseeding & Clover Management with PastureBase Ireland

Wednesday, 5th May | 7pm

Join the Grass10 & PastureBase team on the night along with Teagasc Researcher Michael Egan as they discuss:

- How to identify paddocks to reseed on your farm by using PBI
- Why you should include clover in your reseed in 2021
- Using the Pasture Profit Index (PPI) to pick perennial ryegrass varieties for your 2021 reseed
- Management tips to ensure the long term success of the grass/clover reseed
- Entering reseeding events on PastureBase Ireland

Hear from dairy farmer James Barber from Co. Laois on the night about his experience of grass/clover reseeding on his farm



Or visit www.teagasc.ie/grass10



Heavy Soils Programme
Social Media Takeover
Thursday, 6th May
with 2018 Disadvantaged Land Grassland Farmer of the Year
Danny Bermingham
Doonbeg, Co. Clare

@TeagascGrass10
@Teagasc

Major Focus on Clover Establishment and Management in 2021

The EU Farm to Fork strategy (2030) has increased the urgency to focus research on the role of white clover to reduce chemical nitrogen fertiliser use.

White clover has a very important role to play in sustainable Irish pasture-based milk and meat production systems. The high quality forage and the nitrogen fixation benefits of grass-white clover pastures have led to a resurgence of interest in its use as a means of reducing the economic and environmental costs in pasture-based milk and meat production systems.

Research is currently being undertaken at Teagasc Moorepark, Curtins, Clonakilty and Athenry research farms on the role of white clover in our production systems with very promising results both in terms of nitrogen efficiency & animal performance.

A booklet has been produced to provide farmers with information on establishment of grass-white clover swards and the management to ensure those swards are productive and persistent. Clover can add more to Ireland's successful grassland efficiency, but it needs better management, especially in the first year post sowing. To view the publication click here:-

<http://bit.ly/CloverBooklet>

Grassland Farmer of the Year Overall Winner Caroline Walsh



GFOY Update - Caroline Walsh (Overall & Dairy Category Winner)

"To keep grazing covers of 1400 kg DM/ha I took out and baled two paddocks. My plan is to pull out two paddocks for reseeding in the next couple of weeks. This will help me manage grass better."

Caroline held a virtual event last week as part of being crowned the 2020 Grassland Farmer of the Year. If you missed her social media takeover go to our @TeagascGrass10 twitter page. If you missed her interview with Aidan Brennan (IFJ), we really recommend you watch it back at <https://bit.ly/CarolineWalshVideos>

Milking cows licking walls / chewing stones?

Joe Patton, Dairy Specialist

This is most likely due to a deficiency of Phosphorus in the diet. Interestingly, this is not confined to farms with low soil P index. A dry/cold spell in April can exacerbate the problem.

What to do if these symptoms arise?

Firstly, the problem should not be ignored. P deficiency problems can have a major negative effect on conception rates over the coming weeks.

Supplement with approx. 8 to 10g of additional Phosphorus per cow per day. This can be included in the next load of concentrate, added to water troughs daily, or via high P salt licks placed in the field.

As the grass growing season progresses and herbage P returns to normal, it will be possible to remove this additional supplementary P from the diet.

To analyse the problem further:

- 1) Consult your vet & Blood test 8-10 cows between earlier/later calved and heifers/mature cows.
- 2) Test 3 sample paddocks for herbage mineral levels. Cut to 4cm as per usual guidelines for grass sampling.

| | |
|----------------|---|
| AFC | 690 Kg DM/ha |
| Cover/LU | 187 Kg DM/LU |
| Growth | 51 Kg DM/ha/day |
| Demand | 55 Kg DM/ha/day |
| Stocking Rate | 3.7 LU/ha |
| PGY (kg DM/ha) | 1400 Kg DM/ha |
| Fertiliser | Following with 1u N/ac per day (20u N/ac for 20 day rotation) |
| Cow Diet | 15 Kg DM Grass + 4 Kg Meal |
| Milk Yield | 28.5 L/Cow (2.21 Kg MS/Cow) |