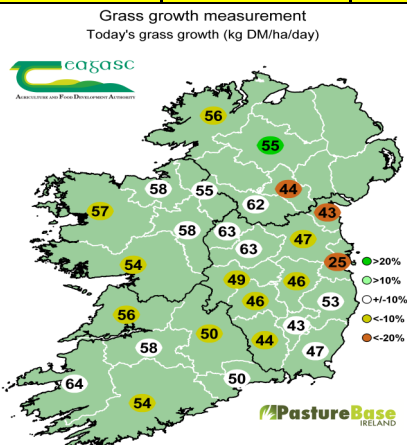


27th July 2021

PastureBase data from dairy farms:

AFC	Cover/LU	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Diet (Grass + Meal)	Pre Grazing Yield
710 Kg DM/Ha	209 Kg DM/LU	3.45 LU/ha	57 Kg DM/ha	52 Kg DM/ha	15 Kg DM + 3 Kg	1525 Kg DM/Ha

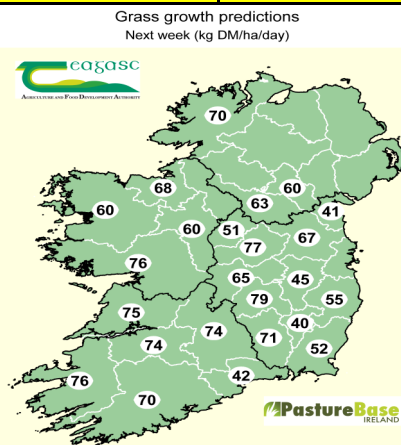


On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 70 kg DM/ha
Wexford 34-60 kg DM/ha
Athenry 73 kg DM/ha
Clonakilty 67 kg DM/ha



Focus turning towards the Autumn in Co. Roscommon

Ed Payne runs a dairy enterprise milking over 500 cows across two milking platforms on the Roscommon/ Galway border with his wife Jennifer, his father Jimmy & 2 children. The Payne's were the Connacht/Ulster Regional winners in the Grassland Farmer of the Year Competition in 2017.

"Growth rates on our farm in Tulsk were back to 62 Kg DM/Ha this week, which I was happy with considering the intense heat last week. We got rain last night and the forecast looks promising with broken weather for the week. We moved the cows up to 5kg of meal to help prevent a hole developing in the grass wedge with the dry weather, however with the damp week forecast, we have reduced this back to 3.5kg this morning"

"We reseeded a paddock on the milking platform with *Abergain*, *Aberchoice* + 2kg *Buddy clover* and this will be grazed tomorrow. The whole platform will be back then to start building grass for the Autumn. We are stocked at 3.8 cows/ha on this platform so we must start building in early August to take advantage of the high growth rates and we will remove some cull cows in September to reduce the demand further"

"The farm is being blanket spread with 25 units of Pasture Sward per acre as we have spread no fertiliser for the last 2 weeks with the dry weather"



Grass Dry Matter %

Clonakilty, Co. Cork

21% (1500 Kg DM/Ha)

Grange, Co. Meath

22.3% (1375 Kg DM/Ha)

Payne's Grass Data

AFC	582 kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	152 kg DM/ha
Stocking Rate	3.8 LU/ha
Growth	62 kg DM/ha/day
Demand	55 kg DM/ha/day
PGY	1,450 kg DM/ha
Milk Yield	1.78 kg MS/cow
Diet (Grass+Meal)	14.5 kg + 3.5 Kg

Grass10 Grazing Tips

Growth rates on Dairy farms are back to 57 Kg DM/Ha this week and 47 Kg on Beef & Sheep farms. This is mainly down to severe moisture deficits around the country.

- As we are still in a "green drought" in most scenarios, the key advice is to hold rotation length at 20-25 days, hold AFC above 500 Kg DM/Ha and introduce supplement. Continue to walk the farm every 5 days to establish growth rates. Most areas are expected to receive some rain this week, particularly on western seaboard.
- On parts of the country that have received rain or on heavier soils where growth remains strong, keep pre-grazing yields to 1400 Kg DM/ha and cover/LU at 160-180 Kg DM/LU or 12-14 days ahead.
- Most farms have not applied any N now in 2 weeks due to the dry weather conditions. If 5-10mm of rain is forecast for your area, apply 20-25 units per acre of Protected N this week. If you applied N during dry spell, do not apply any additional N.
- Farms that are stocked at 3.5 LU/ha or above should start thinking about Autumn build up from the 1st week of August which is only 1 week away.

**We want
your feed-
back!**

We would ask all our readers to please click on the link below or scan the QR code and complete the survey on the weekly Grass10 Newsletter as we are always looking for ways to improve the newsletter. Thanks!

<https://bit.ly/Grass10Survey>



27th July 2021

PastureBase data from sheep & beef farms:

AFC	Days Ahead	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Pre Grazing Yield
716 Kg DM/Ha	18 days	2.75 LU/ha	46 Kg DM/ha	39 Kg DM/ha	1687 Kg DM/ha

Johnstown Castle Grass/Clover & Multi Species Update

Aidan Lawless, Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford

It's been a bit of a stop/start few weeks in terms of grass growth, with rainfall being the biggest influencer. We had about 15mm early in the month which helped to keep grass ticking over, then luckily we got a further 22mm around the 11th/12th of July. The very high temperatures of the past week, coupled with a moisture deficit in excess of 55mm gave us just around **35Kg DM/Ha** growth in the past week. We're just about ok for grass on all treatments, as we have most of the paddocks available for grazing, but in order to avoid running into trouble we badly need 15-20mm rainfall this week.

Fertiliser is due to go out this week, we just want to be happy that we'll get at least 5-10mm rainfall, otherwise we might hold off on it for a week – it's lack of moisture which will limit growth at the moment, not lack of Nitrogen, planned rate of 25kg N/Ha on grass paddocks, 14kgs on grass clover paddocks, none on multi-species plots.

The Spring herd are milking 1.9 Kg Milk solids per day at the minute, 24.5 litres 4.16 % Fat and 3.61 % protein on 2kg of concentrates.

Grass clover swards have grown on average **9.4T DM/Ha with an average of 120kgs N/Ha applied** & multi-species tonnage of **9.0T DM/Ha grown to date with 63 Kg N/Ha applied** (pretty much all of that difference coming during the first round where the multi-species swards are a bit slower to get going).

There's been a notable change in sward composition compared to last year, with the herbs less prominent (especially chicory) and the **clover more noticeable**. So it will be interesting to monitor the persistency of these swards over the next couple of years. Production & sward quality are good, with no artificial N applied since April of this year on the Multi-species swards.



GFOY Update

Caroline Walsh, Overall and Dairy Category Winner, Ballinascarthy, Co. Cork.

"It has been a very challenging year for grass quality with extra effort required to help keep it right in front of our cows"

"Cows are milking 1.6 Kg Milk solids at the minute on 2 kg of concentrates"

"I have spread about 25 units per acre on average less Nitrogen this year as I am trying to promote clover in the swards on my farm"



Rotation No.	7th rotation
AFC	673 Kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	188 Kg DM/Ha
Growth	57 Kg DM/ha/day
Demand	59 Kg DM/ha/day
Stocking Rate	3.5 LU/ha
PGY	1,500 Kg DM/ha
Fertiliser	16 units of Protected Urea after grazing
Annual Tonnage	7,800 Kg DM/ha

Grass10 & PastureBase Ireland Building Autumn Grass Webinar

Join us on Thursday 5th August at 7pm on Zoom as we discuss the importance of building grass during August to drive grass utilisation and profitability on your farm during the Autumn

Register here:-

<https://bit.ly/BuildingAutumnGrass>



Building Grass for an Extended Grazing Season Thursday, 5th August | 7pm

Join the Grass10 & PastureBase team as they discuss:

- August is the beginning of the grazing calendar
- Learn the why, what and how of building grass for Autumn
- Get the views of experienced dry and heavy soils farmers
- Get your questions answered by the Grass10 & PastureBase team

Hear from special guest's heavy soils farmer, David Brady, Co. Cavan & dry soils farmer, John Galvin, Co. Cork as they give their own experiences on how they improved their farms.



Or visit www.teagasc.ie/grass10



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

