



Information & Performance Guide





Limited availability Spring 23



THE MULTI SYSTEM FIT CHICORY

Sika is a New Zealand bred chicory, that has been developed to meet the variety of farm systems this forage is now used in, such as a short-term summer fed crop, a multi-year specialist crop with or without clover and as a component of pasture mixes. Sika is a true perennial chicory with its parentage selected from plants collected out of long-term grazing trials at Ruakura, Hamilton. A core focus in the development programme was improved adaptability and performance over its predecessor Puna II chicory. Characterised by rapid establishment, strong seasonal production and improved disease tolerance and persistence Sika can be used as an annual crop, or as part of a perennial, multi-year sward.

Chicory is well recognised for its high nutritional feed quality, and users of Sika can expect increased yield and disease tolerance relative to Puna II and other commercially available cultivars.

Versatile, high yielding chicory used as both annual and perennial sward situations

- Rapid establishment and high annual production
- Versatile option suitable as an annual crop or true perennial
- Exceptional persistence under grazing
- NZ bred with strong disease tolerance
- Strong seasoned activity and outstanding second year production
- Semi-erect for better crop utilisation by grazing animals
- Thick deep taproot offering drought tolerance

Farm type



Sowing rate



PURE STAND
8 kg/ha

IN MIXTURE WITH CLOVER
4-6 kg/ha

STANDARD PASTURE MIX
1-2 kg/ha

Trial results

DRY MATTER PERFORMANCE – ON A ONE YEAR SYSTEM

Sika chicory was tested at three key sites – Canterbury, Hamilton and Palmerston North. It was tested for its performance as an annual chicory to replicate usage from a spring sowing and feed over the summer/autumn months (table 1). Sika consistently performed well against Puna II across all three sites. The results from these trials demonstrate that Sika has annual performance ideally suited to supplementing milking cows or growing out or finishing young stock.

TABLE 1

Seasonal dry matter (kg DM/ha) of performance of chicory cultivars relative to Puna II at sites in Canterbury, Hamilton and Palmerston North

Cultivar	Est.	Summer	Autumn	6 month total post sowing	9 month total post sowing
Sika	100	106	104	105	106
501	90	101	104	97	101
Puna II	100	100	100	100	100
Chico	90	100	103	99	99
Control Mean	1,232	7,590	4,199	8,841	12,935
Significance	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LSD 5%	22	9	10	8	7

Trials were sown in spring 2021 and continued over the following 9 months.

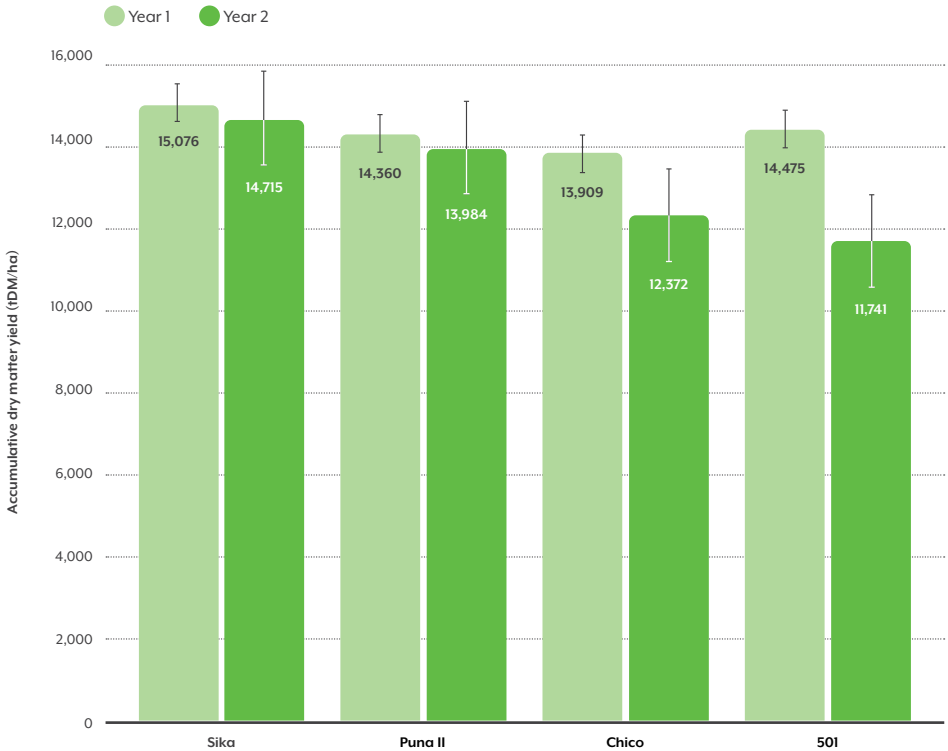


PERFORMANCE ACROSS TWO YEARS

Dry Matter Yield

Trialling at Palmerston North and Canterbury continued for a second year and Sika maintained its dry matter performance. Sika has proven to be ideally suited to farm systems requiring two years of production such as incorporating into specialist mixes with Quartz white clover and Amigain red clover or added at 1 to 2kg/ha into permanent pasture mix.

Two year average dry matter production (kg DM/ha) of chicory cultivars, Lincoln and Palmerston North (2021-23)



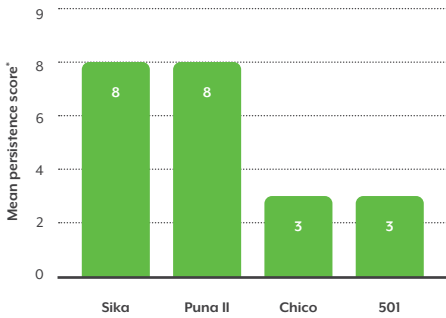
Combined averages from 2 trials in Palmerston North and Lincoln (2021-2023). Duncan lettering is used to indicate statistical differences. Year 1 = 1st October to 31st July. Year 2 = 1st August to 1st March.

Trial results

PLANT PERSISTENCE

The dry matter performance across two years at the Lincoln and Palmerston North trial sites was attributed to plant number survival across years for Sika chicory. This demonstrates that Sika has achieved one of its key selection criteria of having plant survival beyond the first of sowing.

Average persistence scores of chicory cultivars



*1 = no remaining plants, 9 = all plants remaining

Photo shows Anthracnose tolerance at Lincoln 2022, Sika is on the left relative to a commercial standard on the right.

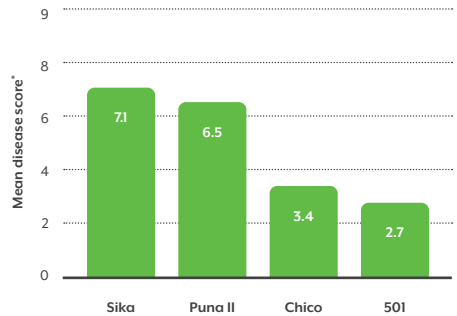


DISEASE SCORES

Ring Spot - Anthracnose - *Microdochium panattonianum*

A fungal disease known in chicory is Ring Spot otherwise known as Anthracnose. The usual source of microsclerotia is found in plant debris and soil, thus mitigating leaf loss during grazing, removal of chicory related weeds and ensuring a break crop between the use of chicory as standing forage is a way of managing the disease. Sika has shown resistance to Anthracnose which helps cultivar performance for dry matter yield and persistence.

Average ring spot scores of chicory cultivars



*1 = High Disease 9 = No Disease





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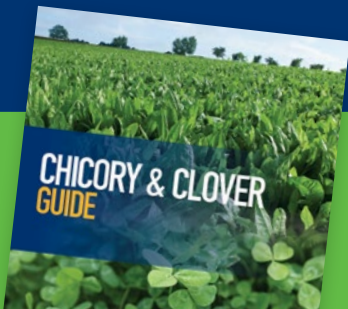
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FURTHER INFO:

Refer to the Chicory and Clover Guide on our website for more information or email us with your details.



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