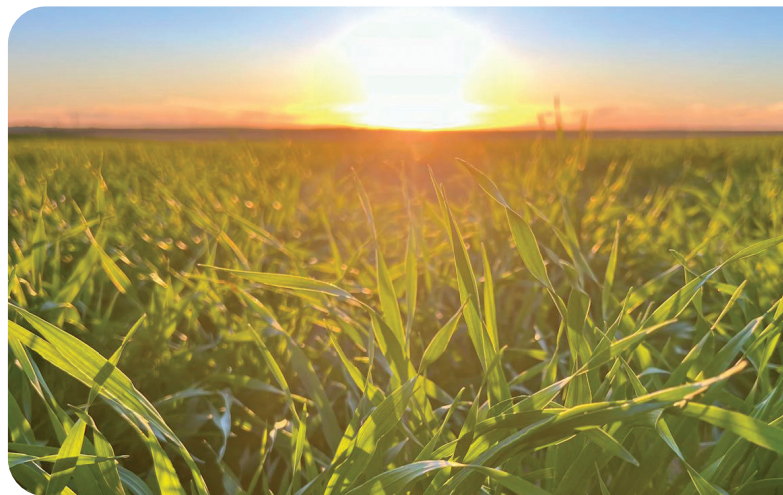


# Kraken

FORAGE BARLEY  
: *Hordeum vulgare*



## Quick Seed Facts



### Sowing rate

- Dryland:  
30–50kg/ha
- Rainfall/irrigation:  
50–80kg/ha

### Maturity

- Early

### Suitability

- Grazing
- Hay
- Silage
- Multi-species blends

### Seed treatment

- None/XLR8® optional

Kraken is a versatile early-maturing awnless forage barley, suitable for multiple grazing and/or high-quality hay or silage production. Early maturity makes Kraken ideally suited to late season planting windows and quick high yielding hay/silage cuts. High growth rates provide quicker establishment and regrowth post grazing through winter when other cereals slow down.

## FEATURES & BENEFITS

- **When planted in optimal planting window, it's the quickest-to-grazing forage cereal**  
Allows for quick accumulation of dry matter to quickly fill feed gaps  
High growth rates and vigour suit late planting windows better than other cereals for providing quick winter feed
- **Exceptional winter growth**  
Produces valuable feed during periods when pasture availability is limited
- **Excellent regrowth after grazing**  
Exceptional dry matter accumulation in short windows
- **Two-row awnless forage barley**  
Awnless seed heads allow for quality hay and silage production

## STRENGTHS

- Rapid establishment
- Excellent resistance to lodging
- High dry matter yields
- Excellent feed quality
- Good drought tolerance
- Ideal for filling early winter and spring feed gaps

## LIMITATIONS

- ▶ Poor tolerance to highly acidic soils
- ▶ Doesn't tolerate waterlogging as well as other cereals

## WHERE IT GROWS

**Rainfall:** Kraken barley is suited to areas receiving annual rainfall of 350mm+. The high water-use efficiency of barley, along with its short maturity helps it outperform other cereals in areas receiving little in-season rainfall.

**Soils:** Whilst adaptable and productive on a wide range of soil types, Kraken prefers fertile, well-drained loams. Kraken has poor tolerance to heavy waterlogged soils and highly acidic soils will begin to limit growth rates and root development as pH drops below 5.0.

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# Kraken

## FORAGE BARLEY

: *Hordeum vulgare*



Plant with  
confidence

### ESTABLISHMENT

Performance optimisation or limitations for your soil type can be discussed with your local agronomist.

**Sowing time:** Ideal germination temperature is between 12°C and 25°C. Suited to a traditional mid autumn/early winter planting window due to its short maturity. Sowing too early, before temperatures have adequately subsided, can cause plants to run to head too quickly, limiting dry matter production. It also increases the risk of hay or silage cuts coinciding with poor drying conditions or frost.

**Sowing depth:** 15–40mm is ideal for Kraken barley into a well-prepared seedbed.

### COMPANION SPECIES

- ⊕ Pasture grasses
- ⊕ Clover & pasture legumes
- ⊕ Forage herbs & brassica
- ⊕ Winter legumes

### MANAGEMENT

**Maintenance fertiliser:** Maintenance fertiliser needs to be applied, as a rule of thumb 35–70kg/ha of nitrogen is required to maximise yield and quality in forage barley. Based on a soil test, nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus, calcium and sulphur levels need to be maintained for optimum dry matter production. Performance optimisation or limitations for your soil type can be discussed with your local agronomist.

**Grazing/cutting:** With adequate moisture, Kraken forage barley is typically ready for grazing 5–6 weeks after sowing. The first grazing should occur when plants are 20–25cm tall and well anchored. A simple test is to pull a handful of plants. If they uproot easily, wait a few more days before grazing, aiming for leaf to snap off easily instead of the plant uprooting. Subsequent grazings should begin once the crop has regrown to a similar height. Kraken forage barley accumulates biomass rapidly, so maintaining adequate grazing pressure helps prevent stems from elongating and the crop becoming reproductive.

As an awnless forage barley, Kraken produces excellent quality hay. If targeting hay production, the booting to early head emergence stage generally provides the best balance between yield and feed quality. Earlier cutting

### MANAGEMENT CONTINUED...

improves protein and digestibility but reduces hay yield, while later cutting increases yield at the expense of feed quality as fibre increases and protein declines.

For silage production, the ideal harvest timing is generally late milk to early dough stage. This typically provides the best balance between yield, feed quality, starch content and fermentation potential, resulting in well-preserved, high-quality silage.

**Major pests:** Cereal cyst nematode, stem nematode, redlegged earth mite, snails, cereal aphids (BYDV transmission), cutworms, webworms, lucerne flea, armyworm, *Bryobia* mite, wingless grasshoppers and Australian plague locust.

**Major diseases:** Net form of net blotch, spot form of net blotch, scald, leaf rust and powdery mildew.

**Herbicide susceptibility:** Herbicides for post emergence and pre-emergence of broadleaf and grass control are available. Consult your local agronomist for herbicide options. Always check label before herbicide use. Best sown into weed-free paddocks.

### ANIMAL PRODUCTION

**Feeding value:** Forage barley during the vegetative growth stage is considered a higher quality feed option than forage oats. Before stem elongation, forage barley is highly digestible (75–85%), with crude protein ranging from 18–25% and metabolisable energy of 11–13MJ/kg of dry matter. As the crop matures, fibre increases while protein content and digestibility decline.

**Palatability:** Highly palatable.

**Livestock disorders/toxicity:** Nitrate poisoning is a risk in forage barley, particularly following drought, frost, prolonged cloudy weather, heavy nitrogen fertiliser use, or rapid growth after rain. Lush, fast-growing barley can also be high in potassium and low in magnesium, increasing the risk of grass tetany. Although less common in pure barley than in legume-dominant pastures, cattle grazing lush, highly digestible forage barley can still experience bloat, particularly if introduced when hungry. Ensure vaccinations are up to date, as grazing barley can also increase the risk of pulpy kidney.

**Always consult an animals health professional if you have any symptoms or concerns.**