



Plant Research (NZ) Ltd.

M5 - Forage Pea

M5: A purple flowering maple coloured forage pea.



Key Features:

M5 is a medium height, medium to late maturing forage pea.

M5 is resistant to powdery mildew, this distinguishes it from all other New Zealand forage pea varieties.

Flowering normally commences at 19-20 nodes, and 2 flowers are produced per node.

Flowers are purple in colour and the dry seed is a maple coloured brown pea.

M5 has a TSW of 240-250g.

Management:

General management practices should be similar to those applied to other forage and field pea varieties.

Choose your paddock carefully giving consideration to soil structure and previous cropping history, especially careful to avoid planting in paddocks where peas have been grown in the last 5-6 years. Check the paddocks aphanomyces root status and avoid paddocks with a high Disease Severity Index.

General herbicide, insecticide and fungicide practices should be followed, as for other forage and field pea varieties. However, a fungicide treatment targeting powdery mildew may not be required due to **M5**'s resistance to this fungal disease. Check with your agent for the best possible advice.

M5 can be sown from early September until late October. The recommended plant population is around 80 plants/m². This equates to a sowing rate of around 190-200kg/ha depending on TSW. If growing **M5** in a cereal mix, the sowing rate would expect to be decreased.

M5 will respond to irrigation, however continued monitoring of soil moisture status will ensure efficient use of water with the crop.

Lodging Resistance:

M5's lodging resistance is rated as moderate to poor. The crop will normally stand until pod fill when lodging can be expected. This may or may not be an issue with this forage crop depending on the timing of grazing.

Nutritional Data:

Table 1. **M5** nutritional analysis at flat pod and pod fill for the 2006/2007 season.

	Flat pod	Pod fill
% dry matter	12.3	20.9
% organic matter	90.1	90.0
% crude protein	13.5	13.3
% water soluble carbohydrates	18.0	16.7
% neutral detergent fibre	40.0	39.2
% acid detergent fibre	30.1	29.5
Digestibility (proportion of feed dry matter consumed able to be absorbed by animal)	69.5	69.3
Estimated ME MJME/kg DM (available energy/kg DM)	10.5	10.4

¹Nutritional analysis conducted by the Analytical Services Unit, Lincoln University, Canterbury, New Zealand.

Contacts:

Further information on cultivar characteristics should be directed to

Adrian Russell
Plant Research (NZ) Ltd
(03) 325 7031
Email: plantresnz@xtra.co.nz

Further information on seed availability should be directed to

Bruce Garrett
Seed Force
027 232 5616
Email: brucegarrett@seedforce.co.nz

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