



Figure 1. Test forage species were sown in early spring, 2018 under tagasaste trees in a tagasaste plantation. There were three planting location types: heavy tagasaste shade, light tagasaste shade and open pasture.

By March 2020, approximately 20 months after transplanting, we found that:

- Dry matter production and spread of test species was up to 50% lower when grown under shade than when grown in open pasture (e.g. for perennial ryegrass and red clover, Figure 1)
- Cocksfoot spread the most of all test species and produced the greatest dry matter of all test species, regardless of whether it was grown in shade or in the open
- Lotus spread the most of all legume test species and produced high amounts of dry matter
- Prairie grass was sown in autumn 2020 and while it has only a small spread, it produced high amounts of dry matter
- Some annual clovers were tested (cultivars Antas, Campeda and Denmark). All cultivars were able to grow and set seed under shade and in the open.
- Work is on-going to quantify test species:
 - Dry matter production
 - Spread
 - Nutritive value
 - Disease / insect damage levels
- Information on tagasaste nutritive value and dry matter production is being collected. Samples have yet to be sent to be processed.

Key lessons from this project have been communicated through presentations at:

1. Onetai Field day, South Waikato (including discussion regarding setting up a tree plant site (25 Feb 2019))
2. Wairoa East Coast Farming Expo - results communication (26-27 February 2019)
3. Rural professional discussion group, Gisborne district (18 March)
4. Farming Women Tairāwhiti Discussion Group (19 March)
5. Gisborne farmer discussion group (20 March)

A paper is in preparation for the Grazing in Future Multi-scapes workshop

(<https://web.cvent.com/event/3bcbdfc4-ff78-4f6d-804d-7bdeedfeb8c8d/summary>), November 2020.

This contains information on tagasaste and other edible forage shrubs.