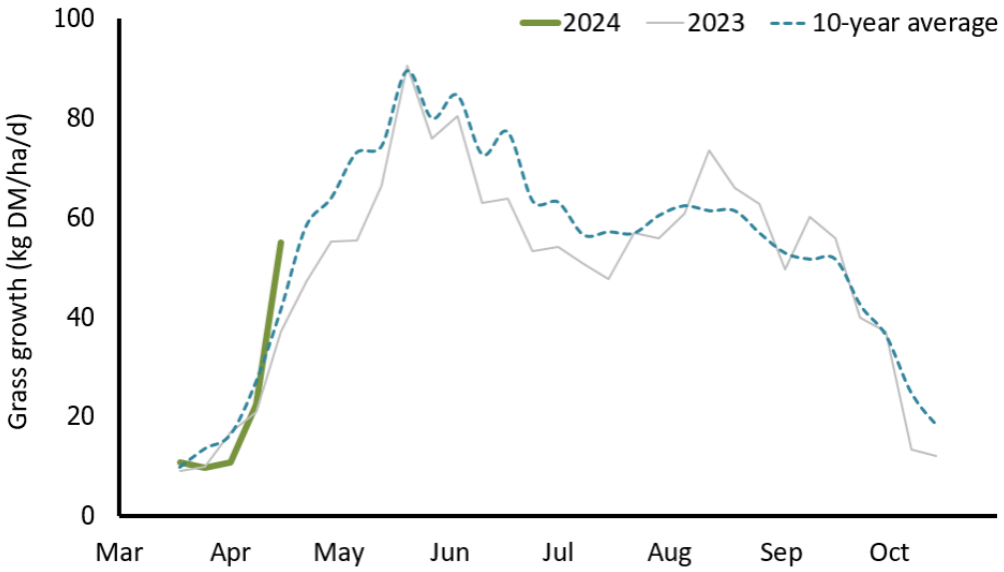
Week beginning 15th April 2024



Grass Growth (kg DM/ha/d)

Dairy farms 46.6

Beef & sheep farms 45.9

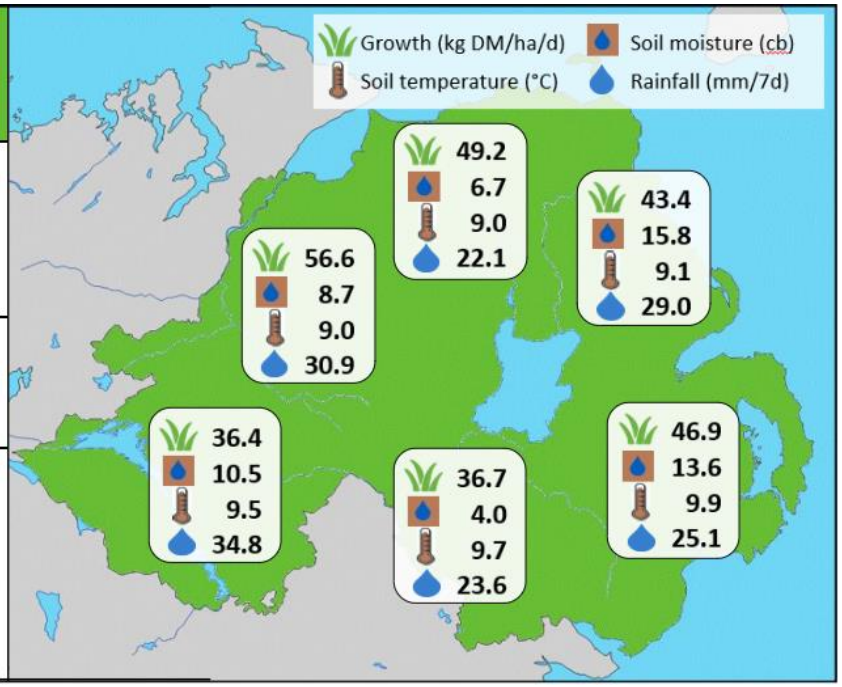
Forecast

7 day	14 day
65.0	47.2

* On-farm grass growth data supplied by AgriNet

* Soil moisture (cb) guide: below 10 = saturated soil, above 60 = potential for restricted growth

* Forecast assumes 270 kg N/ha/yr of fertilisation



MANAGEMENT NOTES:

- Grass growth is in line with the 10-year av. and is predicted to increase rapidly over the next fortnight. Repeated heavy rainfall events continue to make ground conditions tender and have limited any opportunities for fertiliser and slurry applications.
- Weekly measuring is critical to maintain control of av. farm cover. Use a grass budgeting tool to predict the grass wedge forward and identify ways to correct a surplus/deficit.
- For those who have yet to commence grazing, as grass growth surges the priority must be to create a grass wedge asap, grazing lower covers to maximise the area grazed and potentially taking out heavier covers for surplus bales as soon as conditions allow.
- For those who were able to graze early in the season, 2nd rotation regrowth's will be ready to graze soon. If these were damaged in their first grazing, it is important to avoid damaging them a second time where possible as it is likely to cause an annual yield hit.

Value of Grass		Grass Quality	
Dairy — maintenance plus (M+) (kg/cow/day)*	17.8	**DM (%)**	19.8
Growing animals — live weight gain (kg/head/day)**	1.06	**ME (MJ/kg DM)**	11.5
*M+ calculated assuming: 650kg cow, and 15 kg DMI. Maintenance=75 MJ/day, 5.3 MJ/kg milk		**CP (% DM)**	17.6
**Beef daily gain assuming: 300 kg beef steer, and 6.6 kg DMI. Maintenance=35 MJ/day, 40 MJ/kg gain		**WSC (% DM)**	16.8

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

@GrassCheck