

**Objective:** To assess whether Goulding Sweetgrass® fertiliser enhanced with sodium could increase the sugar content of grass to improve its palatability compared to a 'standard' complex compound CCF

**Crop:** Grass

**Location:** Athy, Co. Kildare, Ireland

**Date:** April to September 2019

**Researcher:** National University of Ireland, Galway

**Method:** Fertiliser was applied prior to each of two cuts of grass in June and September – the same amount of N was applied in both treatments

**Measurements:** Full mineral analysis and feed value

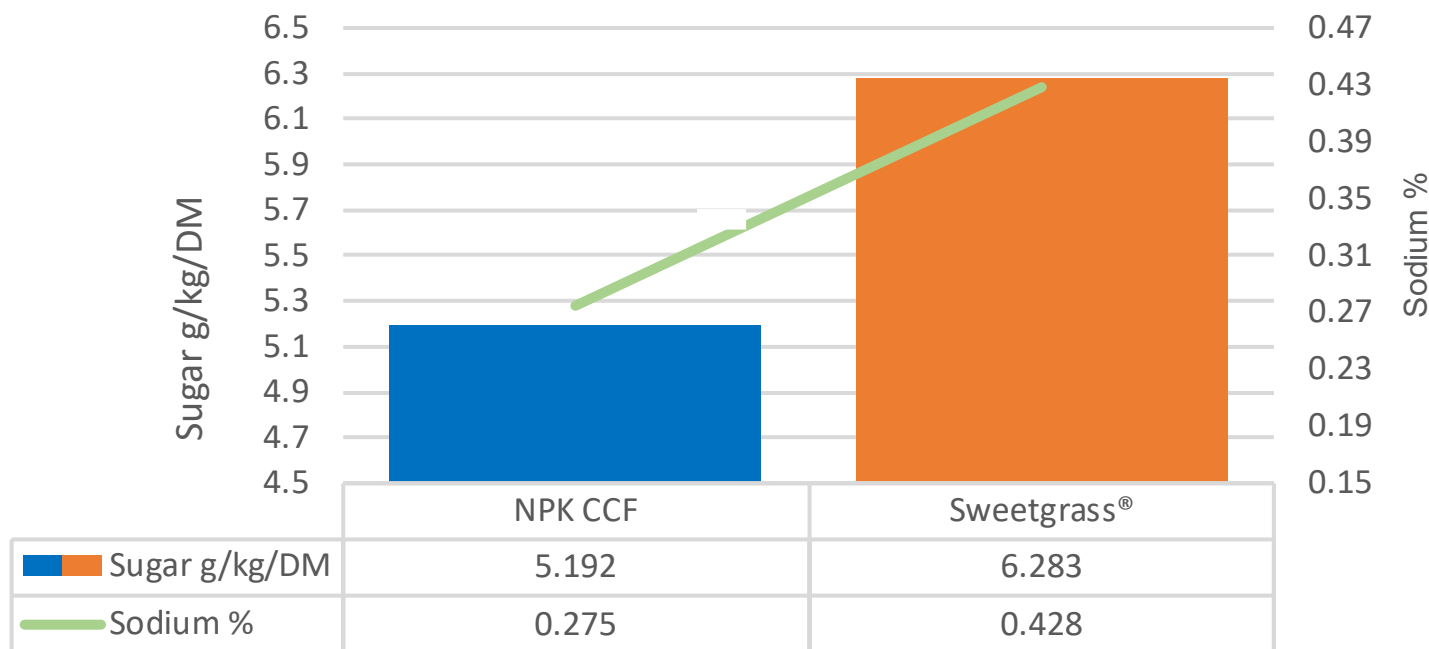
**Trial code:** OFNUI09/2019



Sodium is essential in optimising sugar content, improving palatability and dry matter intakes. In conserved grass, sugars convert to acids which aid fermentation and preservation.

Sodium plays a key role in optimising mineral balances and reducing the risk of hypomagnesaemia.

## Results: Sodium and sugar content of grass



**Compared to the 'standard' NPK Complex Compound fertilisers, Sweetgrass®:**

- ✓ Increased the sodium content by 56% = Higher palatability and intake
- ✓ Increased the sugar content by 21% = Optimum fermentation and preservation
- ✓ Reduced the K:Na ratio by 33% = Reduced risk of hypomagnesaemia