

# Fact sheet 2. Worm biology

February 2023

# wormwise

national worm management strategy



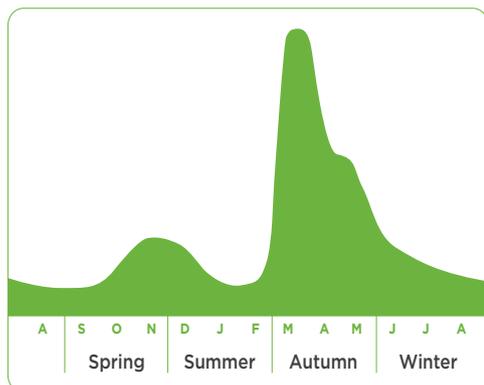
## The worms (internal parasites) of most importance in New Zealand livestock live in the animal's gut (stomach and intestine).

Sheep, cattle and deer are infected by a variety of different worm types at once and have minimal parasites in common.

The whole life cycle may be completed in as little as four weeks.

## The number of larvae on pasture is affected by weather.

Warm moist conditions speed up development, resulting in greater numbers of eggs becoming infective larvae.



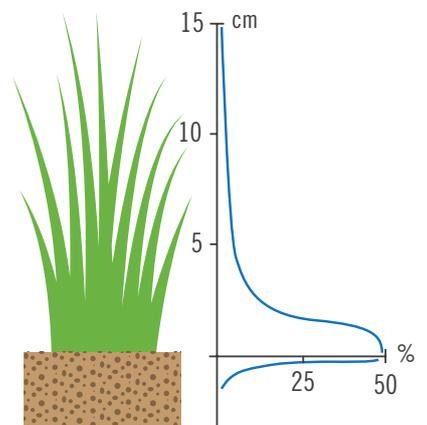
Generalised seasonal pattern of infective larvae on the pasture arising from untreated sheep.



## There are more eggs and larvae on pasture than parasites inside the animals.

Most larvae are found in the first 2cm of pasture height or in the first 1cm of soil.

Intensive grazing exposes animals to more larvae compared with animals lightly grazing the same pasture.



Effective worm management requires more than simply killing worms. It should minimise exposure of animals to larvae on pasture at crucial times.