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Drought recovery

Tillers, to be grazed or saved?

One tiller produced from an old tussock.

Green shoot begins to photosynthesise.

Energy is being sent to replenish reserves in the plants root system (rhizomes).

This energy is used to recharge entire tussock, preparing it for the next rain event when it may shoot.

Stored energy from roots used to produce a seed head.

GRAZED

Grazing now will reduce seed supply and deplete energy reserves in the plant's roots. The plant will weaken and may not have the energy reserves to produce another response. The plant may die.

SAVED

If this tiller is left to complete its lifecycle it will continue to supply energy to the tussock, produce seed and serve as a point for more tillers to grow along its stem.