Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update 4 May 2017

CO comment

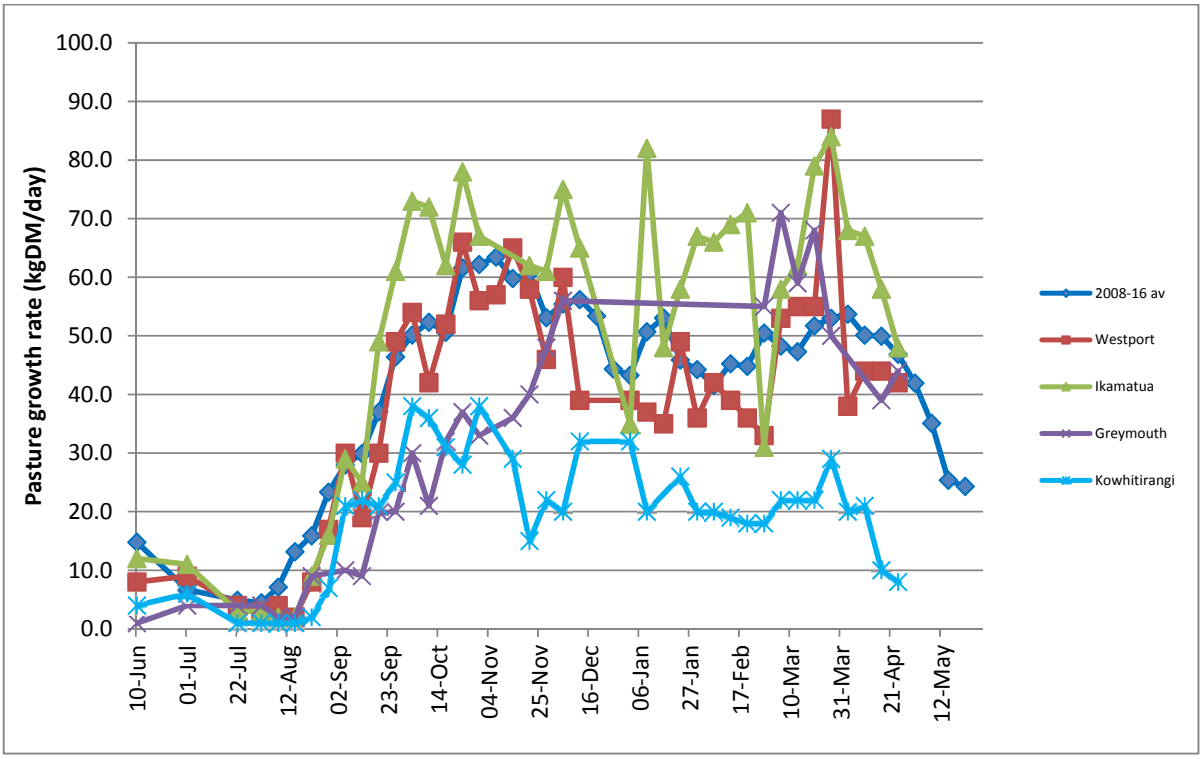
On the whole, pasture growth rates have been very good since the long, wet period ended, but be careful not to take the continued growth for granted. With some areas having already experiencing frosts, soil temperatures will be declining. Continue to revise and update your autumn feed budget to reflect the situation on your farm and ensure you have sufficient feed to continue milking if that is what you choose to do. Revisit your winter feed budget to confirm feed availability. If winter feed levels are going to be tight, consider setting your wintering mobs up based on BCS and feed individual groups according to the BCS gain that is required. Your focus now should be on setting up the farm for next season and achieving target pasture covers and body condition score at dry off and calving. If drying cows off in smaller groups make sure they are adequately marked and there is no opportunity for them to re-enter the milking herd, especially if dry cow therapy is being used. If you are interested in viewing the Expanded Weekly Summary of the monitoring results, follow this link West Coast Monitor Farm Full Summary.

Farm Summary

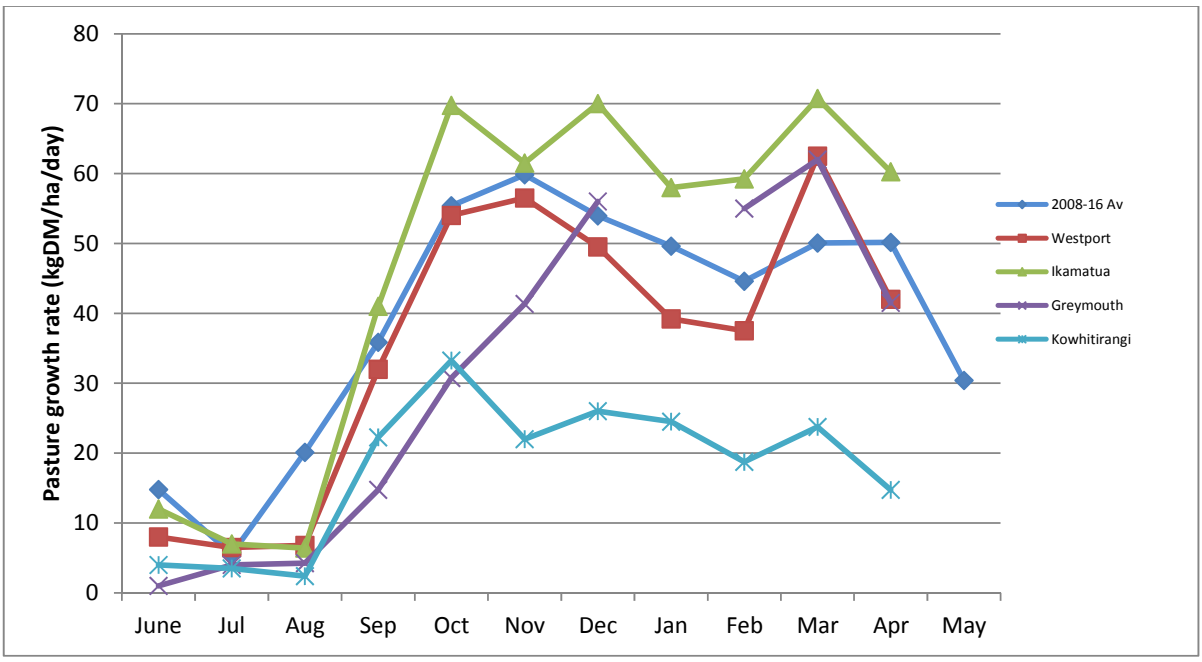
	Westport	Ikamatua	Greymouth	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	1989	2124	2227	1860
APC (27 April)	*2036*	*2133*	*2236*	*1912*
Rotation length (days)	23	28	30	43
Stocking rate	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.0
Percentage in milk	81	95	91	85
Milksolids kg/cow	1.40	1.46	1.09	1.00
Milksolids kg/ha	3.3	3.6	2.5	2.0
MS/cow (season to date)	371		285	312
MS/ha (season to date)	1085		718	744
N (kg/ha) year to date	170	222	209	50
Current N application rate kg N/ha	20	25	30	None
	3 April	4 April		5 April
DM%	15.1	11.7		15.1
Pasture ME	12.1	>12.7		12.1
Pasture NDF	52.2	48.1		52.2
Pasture CP	27.6	33.9		27.6
Target Intake (kg DM/cow/d)	18	18	18	16
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	1.5	1.5	6.0	1.0
Soil temperature (°C)	12.0	13.0	12.4	13.6
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	42	48	44	8
Rainfall	34		31	100
Conditions for farmwalk	Fine. Cold start, close to frost	Fine, cold		Heavy rain
Comments				

NB: pasture quality data are for 1 sample collected from each farm

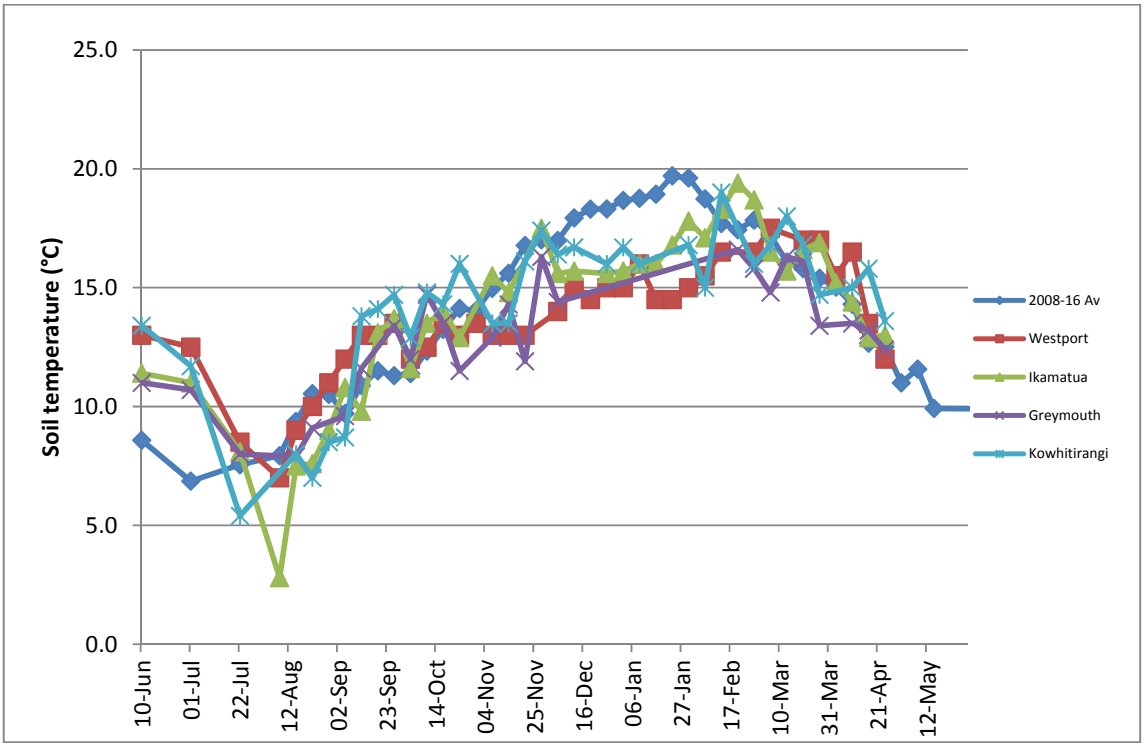
Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



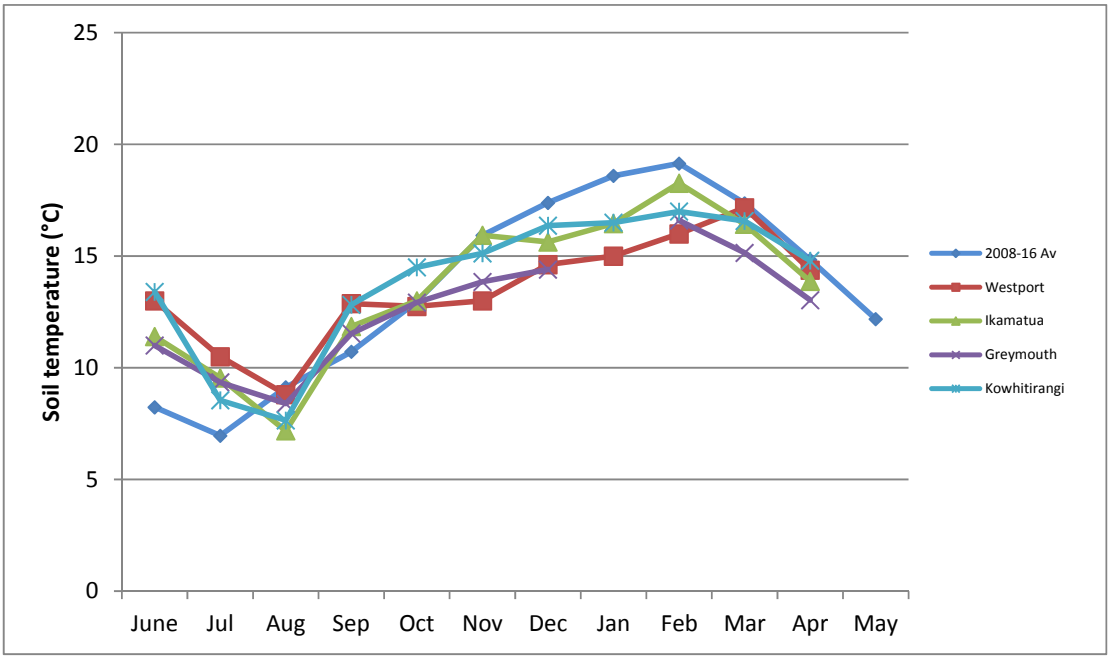
Monthly Pasture Growth Rates



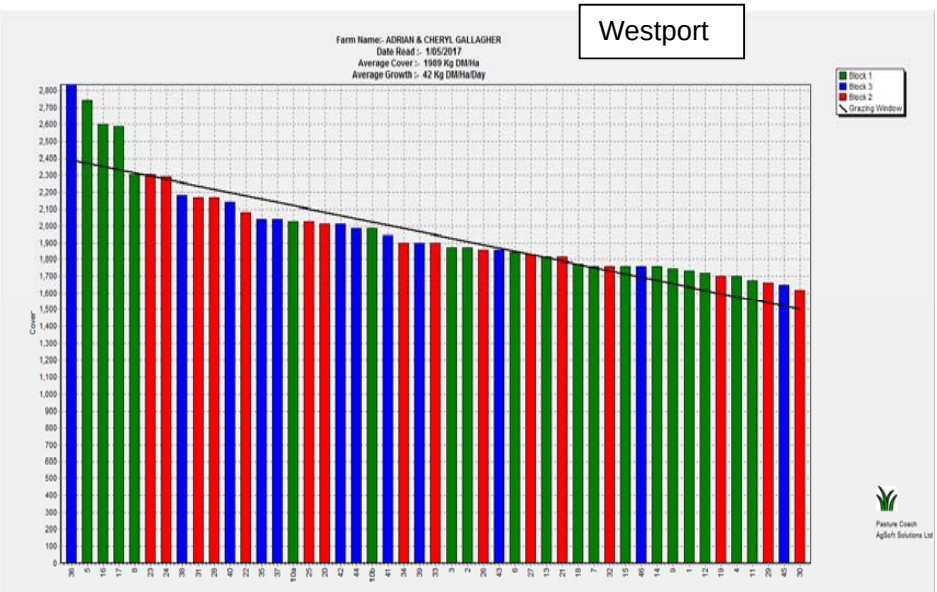
Weekly Soil Temperature



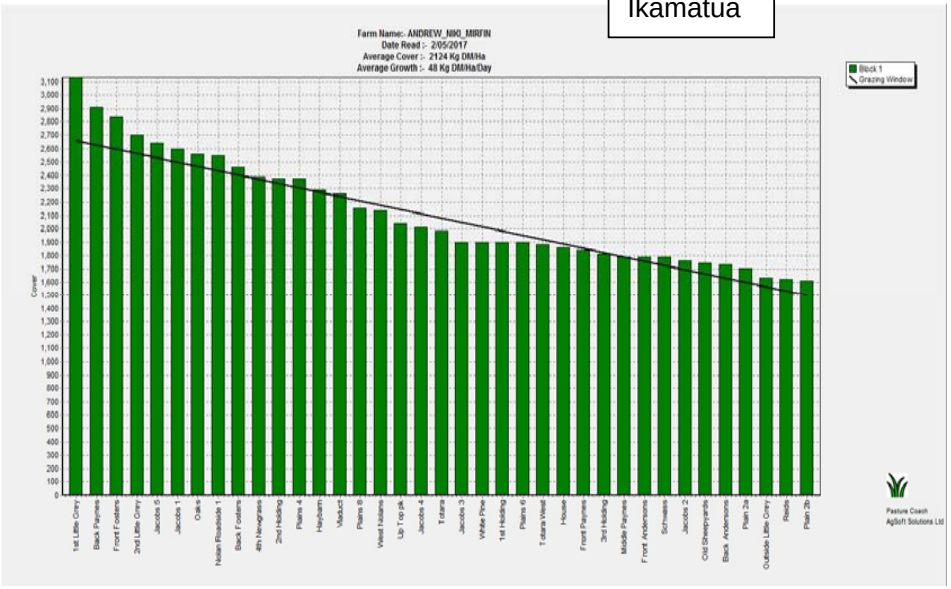
Monthly Soil Temperature



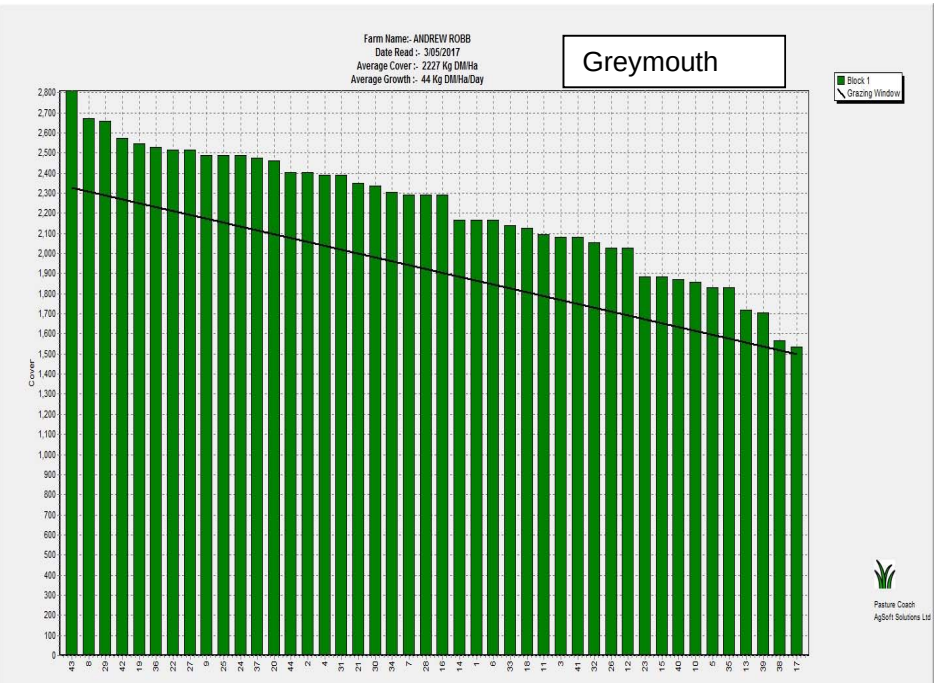
Westport



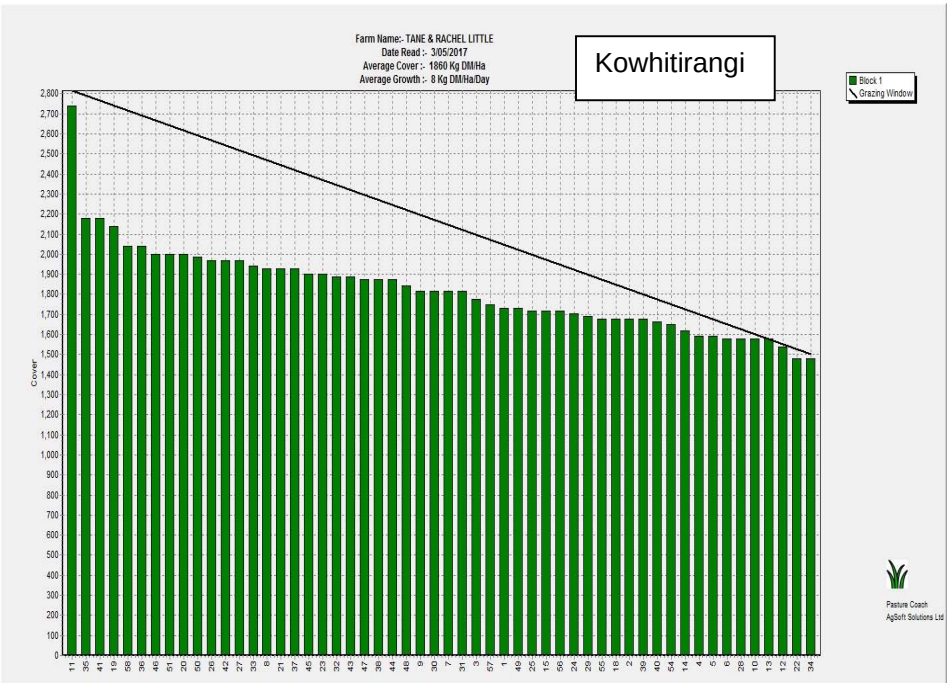
Ikamatua



Greymouth



Kowhitirangi



Pasture Quality

NOTE: We sample the paddocks immediately in front of the milkers, to height of 3.5cm (7 clicks on the rising plate meter). The RPM data in the table is the pre-grazing clicks recorded on the day of sampling.

Westport

Description	Date	RPM	% DM	% Prot	% Lipid	% ADF	% NDF	Sol Sugar	OMD %	MJME /kg
Pdk 22	22/6/2016	8.0	16.5	25.1	4.8	20.9	30.4	22.1	85	12.7
Pdk 40	10/8/2016	10.8	21.1	17.6	3.5	23.5	37.3	25.4	85	12.7
Pdk 1	7/9/2016	11.8	12.4	34.7	5.1	20.6	44.1	4.4	85	12.7
Pdk 6	12/10/2016	14.2	12.8	25.5	4.2	21.1	42.3	12.2	85	12.7
Pdk 5	7/11/2016		14.4	23.3	4.2	25.3	47.5	9	84.4	12.3
Pdk 6	7/12/2016	14.7	12.9	29.0	4.4	25.0	41.0	7.7	>85	12.6
Pdk 25	8/2/2017	10.6	14.4	24.6	4.2	23.2	48.9	10.8	>85	>12.7
Pdk 24	10/3/2017	12.0	19.3	22.1	4.5	25.7	51.2	9.1	82.4	12
Pdk 7	5/4/2017	13.0	11.7	33.9	4.3	11.7	33.9	4.3	>85	>12.7

Ikamatua

Description	Date	RPM	% DM	% Prot	% Lipid	% ADF	% NDF	Sol Sugar	OMD %	MJME/ kg
Hold	21/6/2016	12.8	11.7	26.4	4.7	21.7	33.5	14.7	85	12.7
Baleage runoff	29/6/2016		29.4	17.4	4.9	27.6	41.2	2.5	77.3	11.3
Plain	9/8/2016	7.2	17.8	18.3	4.4	22.0	35.7	24.1	85	12.7
Pdk 4	6/9/2016	12.7	14.8	29.3	5.2	21.1	40.3	10.6	85	12.7
Old Sheep yards	11/10/2016	17.0	12.9	27.3	4.0	22.0	42.2	12.0	85	12.7
Jacobs	8/11/2016		13.8	26.4	4.6	21.7	45	10.6	>85	>12.7
Back Anderson	6/12/2016	14.3	16.8	23.6	4.0	23.1	43.7	18.9	>85	>12.7
Pdk 4 New	20/1/2017	15.4	14.3	31.5	4.7	21	42.9	7.5	>85	>12.7
Grey	7/2/2017		13.7	25.8	4.4	22.7	46.6	11.5	>85	>12.7
Jacob 4	10/3/2017	12.0	13.2	31.3	5.2	23.5	41.2	6.7	>85	12.5
Reids	4/4/2017	14.6	11.7	33.9	4.3	21.7	48.1	4.9	>85	>12.7

Greymouth

Description	Date	RPM	% DM	% Prot	% Lipid	% ADF	% NDF	Sol Sugar	OMD %	MJME /kg
Pdk 38	30/11/2016	13.7	15.3	29.4	4.5	22.8	43.2	12.3	>85	>12.7
Pdk 44	30/11/2016	13.8	18.2	21.8	3.7	26.4	16.8	12.7	83.8	12.2

Kowhitirangi

Description	Date	RPM	% DM	% Prot	% Lipid	% ADF	% NDF	Sol Sugar	OMD %	MJME/kg
Pdk 22	22/6/2016	8.0	16.5	25.1	4.8	20.9	30.4	22.1	85	12.7
Pdk 40	10/8/2016	10.8	21.1	17.6	3.5	23.5	37.3	25.4	85	12.7
Pdk 1	7/9/2016	11.8	12.4	34.7	5.1	20.6	44.1	4.4	85	12.7
Pdk 6	12/10/2016	14.2	12.8	25.5	4.2	21.1	42.3	12.2	85	12.7
Pdk 5	7/11/2016		14.4	23.3	4.2	25.3	47.5	9	84.4	12.3
Pdk 6	7/12/2016	14.7	12.9	29.0	4.4	25.0	41.0	7.7	>85	12.6
Pdk 25	8/2/2017	10.6	14.4	24.6	4.2	23.2	48.9	10.8	>85	>12.7
Pdk 24	10/3/2017	12.0	19.3	22.1	4.5	25.7	51.2	9.1	82.4	12
Pdk 7	5/4/2017	13.0	11.7	33.9	4.3	11.7	33.9	4.3	>85	>12.7