



# Bright Seeds

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# Tractorman's Guide






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# Welcome



There is a lot to consider when establishing a new game cover crop.

 This handy guide provides all the key information needed to produce a successful crop including seed rates, drilling depths and optimum fertiliser rates.

For those incorporating their cropping into a countryside stewardship scheme page 104 shows key dates and timings for the main stewardship crop options.

Through continued research and development into new and existing products we pride ourselves on supplying the best quality seed available. Coupled with that our passionate and knowledgeable advisors are always on hand to discuss stewardship and game cover crop choice, establishment and management with you.

We hope this Tractorman's Guide helps even further in ensuring the crops you grow reach their full potential.

Chris Bright

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**www.brightseeds.co.uk**

# SEEDBED PREPARATION

During any crop establishment, we look to create the most favourable conditions for the seed as possible. To germinate a seed needs water, oxygen and suitable temperature. Germination begins by taking up water (the water content of the seed increases from 14% to 45-60%). The swollen grain then germinates and if the temperature is high enough the development happens very quickly.

There are different techniques for creating a seedbed. The technique used will depend on many factors such as soil type, availability of machinery, climate and so on.

Conventional – ploughing in of top growth/trash, cultivation of sowing depth with a harrow/disc, conventional drilling followed by fertiliser application.

Minimal Tillage – no ploughing. The ground is usually worked down with a power harrow or discs and then drilled.

Direct Drilling – no cultivations. The seed is drilled straight into the seedbed. This helps with moisture retention and also enables good levels of organic matter to build up in the soil. Be mindful of potential compaction issues.

## Soil Compaction

### Impact on the crop

- Reduced root penetration, resulting in weak plants.
- Poor drainage so top soil layer more likely to stay water-logged.
- Reduces fertiliser uptake, affecting the health of the plants.
- Maize in particular doesn't react well to compacted soil.

### How to reduce compaction

- Limit heavy machinery.
- Sub-soiling is a good way of reducing compaction. Never sub-soil when the ground is wet as this can cause a big loss of oxygen and cause more problems.



## Fertiliser

The fertiliser recommendations in this guide are approximate, and based on a soil index of 2 and the use of readily available compound blends. We recommend soil is tested every 3-5 years to establish accurate fertiliser requirements for your crops. If in doubt consult a FACTS registered agronomist.

# BUGS & BEASTS



## Flea Beetle

These tiny insects feed on brassica crops, leaving 'shot holes' in the leaves. In extreme scenarios they will eat the plant off as soon as it emerges. It is important to monitor the crop from day one, and take action if needed. Growing a companion crop such as mustard or phacelia can help kale establish well.



## Slugs

They thrive in warm and wet conditions, which is often the case during game cover drilling time. Use slug pellets if necessary. Also, working down a good seed bed and burying the trash from the previous year will help too. Slugs will eat most game crops, but most notably maize, kale and sunflowers.



## Rooks

These can be an issue with newly drilled maize and cereal-based crops. Use deterrents and where possible drill the seed at a decent depth.



## Deer & Hares

These love fresh shoots. Where deer and hares are known to be a big problem then a crop such as sorghum can be a good choice (animals don't like to eat the young plants). Sunflowers need monitoring closely, and in dry years deer can do a lot of damage to maize crops too.



## Wireworm

These can be an issue if a new crop is going in after a long-term grass ley. Speak to us to discuss the best options. Ideally, we would recommend not growing maize for the first two years after grass, when wireworm is most likely to cause damage. Sorghum or any brassica would be a good alternative.

# MAIZE



## What is it?

Maize is a hugely popular game crop. It is a semi-tropical plant so pay special attention to soil temperature and cultivation regime.



## Uses

Great for pheasant and partridge. Careful choice of variety will ensure good cover through to January.



## Seed rate

Drill at 100,000 seeds/hectare.



## Drilling

Drill into moisture, which should be between 2-3 inches (drill deeper in lighter sandy soil to find moisture). Row width should be 20-30 inches, to allow game bird movement. Cross-drilling at flushing points is a good idea.



## Sowing

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



## Seedbed

A fairly loose seedbed is best, don't overwork it and loose moisture. Sub-soiling can be useful for removing compaction. Apply well-rotted FYM whenever possible.



## Roll

In most cases never roll maize, unless you are on very light soil and it is required to maintain moisture.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 600kg/hectare  
T16 700kg/hectare  
14.14.21 700kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

Be careful of slugs, hares and deer eating young plants, and badgers and corvids can be a problem.



## Weeds

Maize enables good weed control to be carried out.



## Plant disease

Look out for eyespot – a disease which will slowly kill the plant – thrives in mild, damp conditions, late season.



# SORGHUM



## What is it?

Similar to maize, it is a semi-tropical crop. We have a range of varieties available, including dwarf, medium, grain and jumbo.



## Uses

Ideal to plant around the edge of a maize crop to keep it warm. Grain sorghum can be an excellent component within a wild-bird mixture.



## Seed rate

25kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Drill at a depth of 1 inch, and in 20 inch rows.



## Sowing

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



## Seedbed

Fairly fine. Do not plant until soil temperature has reached 12C over a five day period.



## Roll

Light roll.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 500kg/hectare  
T16 600kg/hectare  
14.14.21 700kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

Not usually a problem.



## Weeds

Good control of broad-leaf weeds can be achieved.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.



# MILLET



## What is it?

A Mediterranean crop producing an abundance of highly nutritious seed. Like maize, it requires a warm seedbed before it will germinate and will not tolerate cold wet soils while it is becoming established.



## Uses

Produces a huge amount of seed for game and farmland birds. Certain varieties such as reed millet will also stand very well into the winter.



## Seed rate

20kg/hectare if a straight crop, but usually sown with maize at a reduced seed rate of 8kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Can either be drilled just under the surface or broadcasted.



## Sowing

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 400kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

Not usually a problem.



## Weeds

Good control of broad-leaf weeds can be achieved.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

# SUNFLOWERS



## What is it?

Sunflowers are a semi-tropical crop, usually used in wild-bird mixtures or mixed with maize.



## Uses

Sunflowers are great for feed throughout the winter, as well as providing attractive viewing early in the season.



## Seed rate

25kg/hectare if a straight crop, but usually mixed with maize at 10kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Drill in 20 inch rows, at between 1 and 2 inches deep.



## Sowing

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



## Seedbed

Loose and warm seedbed, similar to maize.



## Roll

Light roll.



## Fertiliser

T16 300kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

Everything likes to eat sunflowers from the moment they are planted, especially slugs. Hares, Rabbits and birds will also eat the growing shoots.



## Weeds

Only pre-emergence chemical currently available.



## Plant disease

Botrytis can occur in the seed head, but this will only cause the seed to shed which is a benefit in game cover crops.

## KALE



## What is it?

A brassica crop – different varieties available.



## Uses

Provides cover for the whole winter and as long as the crop is not too thick, each plant will develop a strong firm stem resistant to most winter winds. Kale can also be left for a second year.



## Seed rate

5kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Ideally drill at 0.5 inch deep in 20 inch rows.



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Sowing

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 600kg/hectare  
T16 750kg/hectare.



## Bugs &amp; beasts

Susceptible to attacks from flea beetle, so take action as soon as 'shot-holes' are seen. Pigeons and slugs can be a problem too. We often recommend using a nurse crop, such as phacelia or mustard to protect the young kale plants.



## Weeds

Use a stale-seed bed wherever possible. Post-emergent herbicides are available too if needed.



## Plant disease

Be mindful of clubroot, if growing on the same plot we recommend growing a non-brassica crop once every 3-4 years.

# FODDER RADISH



## What is it?

Very fast growing and often used as late sown cover. Can work on its own, or in a mix such as Autumn Promise.



## Uses

Quick cover, producing a kale type plant.



## Seed rate

5kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Drill just under the surface in wide rows (20 inches), or can be broadcasted.



## Sowing

J F M A M **J J A S** O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 400kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

Although not as susceptible as kale, fodder radish is still at risk from flea beetle, so take action as soon as 'shot-holes' are seen.



## Weeds

Use a stale-seed bed wherever possible. Post-emergent herbicides are available too if needed.



## Plant disease

Some varieties are clubroot resistant, speak to us for more information.

# INTERVAL



## What is it?

A brassica cross between a rape and a kale – it is very fast-growing.



## Uses

Ideal for late sowing as it is fast growing and will last well into the season.



## Seed rate

5kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Ideally drill just under the surface in 20 inch rows, but also can be broadcasted.



## Sowing

J F M A **M** J J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 400kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

Susceptible to attacks from flea beetle, so take action as soon as 'shot-holes' are seen. It is a fast-growing crop so generally out-grows the attack.



## Weeds

Use a stale-seed bed wherever possible. Some post-emergent herbicides are available too if needed.



## Plant disease

Be mindful of clubroot, if growing on the same plot we recommend growing a non-brassica crop once every 3-4 years.

# MUSTARD



## What is it?

A fast establishing brassica crop.



## Uses

Suitable for pheasant and partridge, its flexible sowing dates allow for a range of cover options. Can be sown on stubble after harvest and also useful for patching up struggling game crops.



## Seed rate

5-10kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Ideally drill at 0.5 inch deep in 20 inch rows.



## Sowing

J F M A **M** J J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 150kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

Although not as susceptible as kale, mustard is still at risk from flea beetle, so take action as soon as 'shot-holes' are seen.



## Weeds

Use a stale-seed bed wherever possible as only limited post-emergent herbicides are available.



## Plant disease

Be mindful of clubroot, if growing on the same plot we recommend growing a non-brassica crop once every 3-4 years.

# UTOPIA



## What is it?

A cross between a black mustard and a wild Ethiopian kale – traditionally used as a grazing crop by nomadic farmers.



## Uses

Quick growing late sown cover crop – excellent standing power with large leaves like kale.



## Seed rate

5kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Ideally drill just under the surface in 20 inch rows. Can be broadcasted but the crop will be very thick.



## Sowing

J F M A M **J J A S O N D**



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 400kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

Susceptible to attacks from flea beetle, so take action as soon as 'shot-holes' are seen. It is a fast-growing crop so generally out-grows the attack.



## Weeds

Use a stale seed bed, but does tend to outgrow weeds. Limited post emergent herbicides are available.



## Plant disease

Be mindful of clubroot, if growing on the same plot we recommend growing a non-brassica crop once every 3-4 years.

# FORAGE RAPE



## What is it?

Traditionally grown as a livestock feed, it is quick growing and can be sown later in the season.



## Uses

Ideal for late cover establishment, patching up and rejuvenating failed or old cover plots. Also good for grazing.



## Seed rate

5kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Ideally drill just under the surface in 20 inch rows, but also can be broadcasted.



## Sowing

J F M A M **J J A S** O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 400kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

Susceptible to attacks from flea beetle, so take action as soon as 'shot-holes' are seen. It is a fast-growing crop so generally out-grows the attack.



## Weeds

Use a stale-seed bed wherever possible as only limited post-emergent herbicides are available.



## Plant disease

Be mindful of clubroot, if growing on the same plot we recommend growing a non-brassica crop once every 3-4 years.

# GOLD OF PLEASURE



## What is it?

Grown across Europe, it is an annual oil-based crop, similar to linseed.



## Uses

Suited to most climates and soil types, and will provide highly nutritious seed well into December.



## Seed rate

5kg/hectare if straight, or 1-3kg if used in a mix.



## Drilling

Ideally drill just under the surface in 15-20 inch rows.



## Sowing

J F M A **M** **J** **J** A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 250kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

Not usually a problem.



## Weeds

Use a stale-seed bed wherever possible as only limited post-emergent herbicides are available.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

# BUCKWHEAT



## What is it?

A fast-growing crop, producing a unique three-sided grain within eight weeks of planting.



## Uses

Provides food and cover in summer months, but will die back at the first frost. Often used to attract deer and makes excellent duck feed.



## Seed rate

100kg/hectare if straight, or 10-15kg/hectare if used in a mix.



## Drilling

Drill to a depth of 0.5-1 inch, or can also be broadcast and worked under the soil.



## Sowing

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



## Seedbed

Fairly fine.



## Roll

Light roll.



## Fertiliser

T16 350kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

Hares, rabbits and deer are attracted to young plants.



## Weeds

Use a stale-seed bed wherever possible as limited post-emergent herbicides are available.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

# TRITICALE



## What is it?

A wheat/rye hybrid, sown as a winter or spring cereal crop. As gamecover, it can be used successfully as a straight, or in a mixture.



## Uses

Very good standing capabilities and grows under most conditions.



## Seed rate

100-150kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Works well drilled at 0.5 inch deep, in 10 – 15 inch rows.



## Sowing

J F **M A M** J J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 500kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

Not usually a problem, but be wary of rooks pulling up the seed straight after drilling.



## Weeds

Triticale enables good control of broad-leaf weeds.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

# LINSEED



## What is it?

An annual oil-based crop.



## Uses

Suited to most climates and soil types, and will produce highly nutritious seed through the winter.



## Seed rate

25kg/hectare if straight, or 10-15kg/hectare if used in a mix.



## Drilling

Ideally drill just under the surface in 15-20 inch rows.



## Sowing

J F M **A** **M** **J** J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 300kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

Flea beetle can be a problem, so keep an eye out for 'shot-holes' in the leaves.



## Weeds

Use a stale-seed bed wherever possible as only limited post-emergent herbicides are available.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

# QUINOA



## What is it?

A cultivated relative of fat hen, originating from South America.



## Uses

Commonly found in wild bird stewardship mixtures, produces lots of feed for farmland birds.



## Seed rate

10kg/hectare if a straight crop, but almost always used within a mix at 1-3kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Ideally drill just under the surface in 15 inch rows.



## Sowing

J F M **A M J** J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 300kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

Not usually a problem.



## Weeds

Use a stale-seed bed wherever possible as only limited post-emergent herbicides are available.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

# PHACELIA



## What is it?

An annual plant with distinctive purple flowers, which attracts a wide range of insects and has good conservation value.



## Uses

Fast-growing green manure, which will germinate at low temperatures. It is also a valuable nectar source for bees and other pollinators.



## Seed rate

5kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Ideally drill just under the surface in 15 inch rows, but can also be broadcasted.



## Sowing

J F M **A M J J A S** O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

T16 150kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

Not usually a problem.



## Weeds

Use a stale-seed bed wherever possible as only limited post-emergent herbicides are available.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

# SWEET CLOVER



## What is it?

A biannual leguminous crop, reaching 4 feet high in its second year.



## Uses

Works very well within a game crop mixture, and is often mixed with brassicas to give good cover in the first year.



## Seed rate

10kg/hectare if straight, or 2-4kg/hectare if used in a mix.



## Drilling

Ideally drill just under the surface in 20 inch rows.



## Sowing

J F M A **M** **J** **J** A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

0.24.24 250kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

Not usually a problem.



## Weeds

Use a stale-seed bed wherever possible as only limited post-emergent herbicides are available.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

# CHICORY



## What is it?

A perennial herb used traditionally for grazing as it helps to reduce worms and liver fluke in deer and grazing livestock. It will last for five years.



## Uses

From the second year onwards chicory produces a thick cover, ideal as a windbreak. In the first year a nurse crop is needed to provide cover (our Royal Mark 4 mix is a good option). We recommend using chicory in relatively small strips rather than big blocks as it can become impenetrable.



## Seed rate

5kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Ideally drilled just under the surface in very wide row-widths (20 inch plus).



## Sowing

J F M A M J J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm. Chicory is very well-suited to free draining soils.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

T16 300kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

Young plants are at risk of being grazed off by deer.



## Weeds

Use a stale seed bed prior to drilling as only limited herbicides are available. Topping the crop off in the spring can help to inhibit weed growth.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

# REED CANARY GRASS



## What is it?

A perennial grass crop used widely for game cover.



## Uses

Great in plantations whilst young trees are establishing. Also works well as a wind-break next to a maize crop.



## Seed rate

5kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Ideally drilled just under the surface in very wide row-widths (30 inch).



## Sowing

J F M **A M J J A S** O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

T16 300kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

Not usually a problem.



## Weeds

Use a stale seed bed prior to drilling as only limited herbicides are available. Topping the crop off in the spring can help to inhibit weed growth.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

# ARTICHOKES



## What is it?

A versatile long-term game crop option. Will grow on a wide range of sites and gives dense cover through until December. They are supplied as tubers, which need to be planted ASAP once delivered.



## Uses

Long-term game cover (remains indefinitely, until dug up or sprayed off).



## Seed rate

1,250kg/hectare



## Drilling

Ideally planted in ridged rows approximately 36 inches apart, at 6 inches deep. Drill using a potato planter, or alternatively drop the tubers in behind a plough. It is useful to keep the crop 'ridged-up' to prevent it from getting too thick.



## Sowing

J F **M A M** J J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Deep cultivated and fine, as if prepared for potatoes.



## Roll

Not required.



## Fertiliser

T16 200kg/hectare.

However on most soils fertiliser should not be applied as artichokes are very vigorous.



## Bugs & beasts

Slugs can sometimes attack the young shoots, but generally there are no problems with pests.



## Weeds

Use a stale seed bed prior to drilling as only limited herbicides are available. Glyphosate can be used before the artichokes emerge.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

# MISCANTHUS



## What is it?

A perennial rhizomatous grass, originating from Asia. It produces a permanent game crop. Our main variety is supplied in plugs although rhizomes are available on request.



## Uses

Miscanthus is a versatile crop, used mainly for wind-breaks and in areas where machinery access is difficult.



## Seed rate

Plant at approximately 2,500 plants/hectare.



## Drilling

Usually planted by hand, between 1.5 and 2 metres apart. If it is being established on a larger scale a tree-planter can be used.



## Sowing

J F M A M J J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Can be planted into a range of seedbeds. Ideally cultivate/plough the ground before planting.



## Roll

Not required.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 300kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

We recommend using tree guards in the first year which protects the young plants from rabbits and deer. Once the crop is established it is far less palatable.



## Weeds

Glyphosate can be used between the young plants if necessary (be careful not to spray the miscanthus). Broad leaf weeds can be controlled well in the mature crop. Topping the crop every year suppresses weeds.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

# BROAD BUSTER



## What is it?

A mixture containing sorghum, millet, wheat, triticale and linseed.



## Uses

This mixture has been created to benefit both game and farmland birds. The main advantage of this mixture is the fact that broad-leaf weeds can be controlled. It is stewardship compliant.



## Seed rate

50kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Ideally drilled in wide row-widths (20 inch), at 0.5 inch deep.



## Sowing

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Light roll.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 400kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

Not usually a problem.



## Weeds

This mix enables excellent control of broad-leaf weeds.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

# GRASS BUSTER

## ? What is it?

A brassica-based mixture containing kale, interval, gold of pleasure, utopia, fodder radish, mustard, linseed and phacelia.

## ✓ Uses

This mixture has been created to benefit both game and farmland birds. The main advantage of this mixture is the fact that grass weeds, such as barnyard grass, can be controlled. It is stewardship compliant.

## 🌾 Seed rate

20kg/hectare

## 🌾 Drilling

Ideally drilled in wide row-widths (15 – 20 inch), just under the surface.

## 📅 Sowing

J F M A M J J A S O N D

## 🧱 Seedbed

Fine and firm.

## 🌀 Roll

Yes.

## + Fertiliser

20.10.10 600kg/hectare.

## 🐞 Bugs & beasts

Flea beetle and slugs can be a problem, keep an eye out and take action if needed.

## 🌾 Weeds

This mix enables excellent control of grass weeds, both pre-emergent and post-emergent.

## 🍄 Plant disease

Be mindful of clubroot, if growing on the same plot we recommend growing a non-brassica crop once every 3-4 years.

AB9

# EARLY BIRD



## What is it?

A mixture containing wheat, triticale, linseed and barley.



## Uses

Can be planted early in the spring to offer an early feed source. Stewardship compliant.



## Seed rate

75kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Works well drilled at 0.5 inch deep, in 10 – 15 inch rows.



## Sowing

J F **M A M** J J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 400kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

Be wary of rooks pulling up the cereal seed straight after drilling. Flea beetle can hit the linseed.



## Weeds

This mix enables good control of broad-leaf weeds.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

AB9

# EASY GROW



## What is it?

A mixture containing sunflowers, sorghum, millet and triticale.



## Uses

This mix enables a broad-spectrum weed control plan. The large amounts of seed also makes it a valuable stewardship mix.



## Seed rate

48kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Drill between 0.5 and 1 inch deep, in 20 inch row widths.



## Sowing

J F M A M J J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fairly fine, but no need to over-work the seed-bed.



## Roll

Light roll.



## Fertiliser

T16 500kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

Sunflowers are very palatable to slugs and hares. The other species in the mix, especially sorghum help reduce damage and seem to protect the sunflowers.



## Weeds

A pre-emergent herbicide can be used.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

# PHEASANT & FINCH



## What is it?

Our best-selling mixture, containing kale, millet, triticale, sorghum, linseed and quinoa. Also available with fodder radish or with added wildflowers.



## Uses

This mixture has been created to benefit both game and farmland birds.



## Seed rate

48.5kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Ideally drilled in wide row-widths (20 inches), at 0.5 inch deep.



## Sowing

J F M A M J J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Light roll.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 500kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

Look out for flea beetle on the kale and linseed.



## Weeds

Use a stable seedbed as limited chemical control available.



## Plant disease

Be mindful of clubroot, if growing on the same plot we recommend growing a non-brassica crop once every 3-4 years. Radical Pheasant & Finch is a good alternative (we replace the kale with fodder radish which can then be used as a clubroot break crop).

AB9

# DOUBLE TRIGGER



## What is it?

A mixture containing kale, millet, quinoa and phacelia.



## Uses

This mixture has been created to benefit both game and farmland birds.



## Seed rate

11kg/hectare



## Drilling

Ideally drilled in wide row-widths (20 inch), just under the surface.



## Sowing

J F M A M J J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 500kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

Look out for flea beetle on the kale.



## Weeds

Use a stale seedbed as no chemical control available.



## Plant disease

Be mindful of clubroot, if growing on the same plot we recommend growing a non-brassica crop once every 3-4 years.

AB9

# UK MIX



## What is it?

A mixture containing bittern kale and utopia. Available in a spring-sown or summer-sown version.



## Uses

This mixture has been created to improve the success rate of establishing kale. The utopia is a fast-growing brassica which protects the kale as it grows on underneath.



## Seed rate

5kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Ideally drilled in wide row-widths (20 inch), just under the surface.



## Sowing

J F M A M J J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

Spring: 20.10.10 500kg/hectare.  
Autumn: 20.10.10 300kg/hectare.



## Bugs & beasts

Be mindful of flea beetle and slugs. The utopia helps and generally out-grows the attack.



## Weeds

Use a stale-seed bed whenever possible. Grass weeds can be controlled if necessary.



## Plant disease

Be mindful of clubroot, if growing on the same plot we recommend growing a non-brassica crop once every 3-4 years.

# HIGHLAND GAME



## What is it?

A mixture containing triticale, kale, linseed, quinoa, forage rape, mustard, red clover and phacelia.



## Uses

A versatile crop well suited to colder areas of the UK.



## Seed rate

50kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Ideally drilled in wide row-widths (20 inch), just under the surface.



## Sowing

J F M **A M J** J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 400kg/hectare



## Bugs & beasts

Be mindful of flea beetle and slugs.



## Weeds

Use a stale-seed bed whenever possible as no chemical control is available.



## Plant disease

Be mindful of clubroot, if growing on the same plot we recommend growing a non-brassica crop once every 3-4 years.

AB9

# AUTUMN PROMISE

## What is it?

A brassica-based mixture containing utopia, mustard, interval, buckwheat, vetch, forage rape, tyfon, texel greens and fodder radish.

## Uses

This mixture can be planted later, so it is usually used if a spring-crop has failed or if a longer-term stale-seed bed is being used to control weeds.

## Seed rate

22kg/hectare.

## Drilling

Ideally drilled in wide row-widths (20 inch), just under the surface.

## Sowing

J F M A M **J J A S** O N D

## Seedbed

Fine and firm.

## Roll

Yes.

## Fertiliser

20.10.10 300kg/hectare

## Bugs & beasts

Flea beetle can be a problem, but the fast-growing nature of the crop means it usually out-grows the attack very quickly.

## Weeds

This mix can be planted late, so a good stale seed bed can be created prior to drilling. This is useful for difficult weeds such as red shank.

## Plant disease

Be mindful of clubroot, if growing on the same plot we recommend growing a non-brassica crop once every 3-4 years.

AB9

# KEEPERS RELIEF



## What is it?

A brassica-based mixture containing utopia, mustard, interval, stubble turnips, forage rape and fodder radish.



## Uses

This mixture is mainly used as a rescue crop or to patch up struggling game crops.



## Seed rate

10kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Ideally drilled in wide row-widths (20 inch), just under the surface. It can also be broadcasted.



## Sowing

J F M A M **J J A S** O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 300kg/hectare



## Bugs & beasts

Flea beetle can be a problem, but the fast-growing nature of the crop means it usually out-grows the attack very quickly.



## Weeds

This mix can be planted late, so a good stale seed bed can be created prior to drilling. If being used to patch-up an existing crop, be mindful of any residual herbicides.



## Plant disease

Be mindful of clubroot, if growing on the same plot we recommend growing a non-brassica crop once every 3-4 years.

# ORGANIC SAFETY CATCH



## What is it?

A brassica-based organic mixture containing mustard, fodder radish, utopia, forage rape, buckwheat and vetch.



## Uses

This organic mixture can be planted late, so works well as a rescue crop. It offers excellent cover, and also establishes quickly which is especially useful on organic ground.



## Seed rate

20kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Ideally drilled in wide row-widths (20 inch), just under the surface.



## Sowing

J F M A M J J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

N/A



## Bugs & beasts

Flea beetle and slugs can be a problem, the combination of fast-growing brassicas within the mix should out-grow the attack.



## Weeds

Use a stale seed bed prior to drilling. On organic ground repeat cultivations can work well.



## Plant disease

Be mindful of clubroot, if growing on the same plot we recommend growing a non-brassica crop once every 3-4 years.

# DEER GRAZER



## What is it?

A perennial mixture containing chicory, buckwheat, red clover and vetch.



## Uses

As the name suggests, this mix has been put together to attract deer.



## Seed rate

15kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Drill just under the surface, conventional coulter widths are fine.



## Sowing

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

T16 200kg/hectare



## Bugs & beasts

Not usually a problem.



## Weeds

Use a stale seed bed prior to drilling.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

# REARING FIELD



## What is it?

A hard-wearing grass mix containing perennial ryegrass, smooth-stalked meadow grass, timothy and creeping red fescue.



## Uses

A perennial mixture that is very hard-wearing with a strong root structure. An ideal mixture for rearing fields.



## Seed rate

25kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Can be broadcasted by hand, or drill just under the surface.



## Sowing

J F M A M J J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 250kg/hectare



## Bugs & beasts

Keep an eye out for birds and slugs on newly planted plots.



## Weeds

Broadleaf weeds can be controlled if required.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

# ROYAL MARK 3



## What is it?

A perennial mixture containing canary grass, triticale and reed millet.



## Uses

This mix can last for five years, it is useful for difficult growing areas and also produces an ideal windbreak next to a maize crop.



## Seed rate

40kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Ideally drilled in very wide row-widths (20 inch plus) to prevent the canary grass from getting too thick. Drill just under the surface.



## Sowing

J F M **A M J** J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

T16 400kg/hectare



## Bugs & beasts

Not usually a problem.



## Weeds

Use a stale seed bed prior to drilling.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

# ROYAL MARK 4



## What is it?

A perennial mixture containing chicory, sweet clover, utopia and interval.



## Uses

This mixture offers very good cover in year one. From the second year onwards, the chicory and sweet clover will provide a long-term cover.



## Seed rate

10kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Ideally drilled just under the surface in very wide row-widths (20 inch plus).



## Sowing

J F M **A M J J** A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and Firm. Chicory is very well-suited to free draining soils.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

T16 400kg/hectare



## Bugs & beasts

Be mindful of flea beetle in year one and take action if necessary. Deer will like the chicory too.



## Weeds

Use a stale seed bed prior to drilling.



## Plant disease

Be mindful of clubroot, if growing on the same plot we recommend growing a non-brassica crop once every 3-4 years.

# ROYAL MARK 5



## What is it?

Our original perennial mixture containing chicory, canary grass, kale, cocksfoot and sweet clover.



## Uses

This mixture offers very good cover in year one from the kale. From the second year onwards, the chicory, canary grass, cocksfoot and sweet clover will provide a long-term cover.



## Seed rate

11kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Ideally drilled just under the surface in very wide row-widths (20 inch minimum).



## Sowing

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 400kg/hectare



## Bugs & beasts

Be mindful of flea beetle in year one and take action if necessary. Deer will like the chicory too.



## Weeds

Use a stale seed bed prior to drilling.



## Plant disease

Be mindful of clubroot, if growing on the same plot we recommend growing a non-brassica crop once every 3-4 years.

# ROYAL MARK 6



## What is it?

An enhanced perennial mixture containing chicory, canary grass, gold of pleasure, birds-foot-trefoil, fennel, ox-eye daisy, sweet clover, red clover and phacelia.



## Uses

This mix has been developed to encourage insects as well as providing long-term nesting habitat.



## Seed rate

8.75kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Ideally drilled just under the surface in wide row-widths (approx. 20 inch).



## Sowing

J F M A **M** J J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

T16 200kg/hectare



## Bugs & beasts

Deer will like the chicory, but otherwise not usually any problems.



## Weeds

Use a stale seed bed prior to drilling.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

# SPRING CORN BUNTING



## What is it?

A stewardship mixture containing oats, triticale, barley, linseed and red clover. Autumn Corn Bunting and Corn Bunting Nesting also available.



## Uses

Provides a feed source right through the winter. The mixture is targeted towards Corn Bunting, although all farmland birds will benefit.



## Seed rate

75kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Works well drilled just under the surface, in 10 – 15 inch rows.



## Sowing

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 400kg/hectare



## Bugs & beasts

Not usually a problem, but be wary of rooks pulling up the seed straight after drilling.



## Weeds

Use a stale seed-bed as very limited chemical control is available.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

AB9

# AUTUMN BUMBLE BIRD



## What is it?

A stewardship mixture containing winter triticale, winter barley, fodder radish, burseem clover, birds-foot-trefoil, kale, phacelia, vetch, knapweed, wild carrot and ox-eye daisy.



## Uses

This mixture has been created to provide a feed source through the winter and a nectar source through the summer.



## Seed rate

44.75kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Drill just under the surface, in 10 – 20 inch rows.



## Sowing

J F M A M J J **A S** O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Light roll.



## Fertiliser

34% N 100kg/hectare



## Bugs & beasts

Not usually an issue, flea beetle may attack the young kale plants.



## Weeds

Use a stale-seed bed prior to drilling.



## Plant disease

Be mindful of clubroot, if growing on the same plot we recommend growing a non-brassica crop once every 3-4 years.

AB16

# TREE SPARROW



## What is it?

A stewardship mixture containing triticale, millet, wheat, quinoa, buckwheat, phacelia and gold of pleasure.



## Uses

Provides a feed source right through the winter. The mixture is targeted towards Tree Sparrows, although all farmland birds will benefit.



## Seed rate

43kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Works well drilled just under the surface, in 10 – 15 inch rows.



## Sowing

J F M A **M** J J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 400kg/hectare



## Bugs & beasts

Not usually a problem.



## Weeds

Use a stale seed-bed as very limited chemical control is available.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

# COMPREHENSIVE



## What is it?

A stewardship mixture containing mustard, wheat, millet, triticale, barley, buckwheat, radish, phacelia, quinoa and gold of pleasure.



## Uses

This mix has been designed to cater for many different bird species.



## Seed rate

45.5kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Works well drilled just under the surface, in 10 – 15 inch rows.



## Sowing

J F M A M J J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 400kg/hectare



## Bugs & beasts

Not usually a problem.



## Weeds

Use a stale seed-bed as very limited chemical control is available.



## Plant disease

Be mindful of clubroot, if growing on the same plot we recommend growing a non-brassica crop once every 3-4 years.

AB9

# GREY PARTRIDGE



## What is it?

A stewardship mixture, containing kale, millet, triticale, linseed, gold of pleasure and quinoa.



## Uses

This mixture has been created to benefit both game and farmland birds. It is especially suited to Grey Partridges as it offers excellent protection for predators along with good feed value.



## Seed rate

31kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Ideally drilled in wide row-widths (20 inches), at 0.5 inch deep.



## Sowing

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Light roll.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 500kg/hectare



## Bugs & beasts

Look out for flea beetle on the kale and linseed.



## Weeds

Use a stale seed-bed as limited chemical control available.



## Plant disease

Be mindful of clubroot, if growing on the same plot we recommend growing a non-brassica crop once every 3-4 years.

AB9

# NECTAR FLOWER



## What is it?

A stewardship mixture containing red clover, crimson clover, vetch, sainfoin, alsike clover, Lucerne, birds-foot-trefoil and common knapweed.



## Uses

A mixture that provides a nectar source for pollinators.



## Seed rate

15kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Can be broadcasted, or drill just under the surface in standard coulters widths. Be careful not to drill too deep as the seed won't emerge.



## Sowing

J F M A M J J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

0.24.24 250kg/hectare



## Bugs & beasts

Not usually a problem.



## Weeds

Use a stale seedbed prior to drilling. Grass weeds can be controlled if needed, and topping the crop in the first year can help to reduce weed growth.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

# RYEGRASS & LEGUME



## What is it?

A mixture of perennial ryegrass, red clover, common vetch, birds-foot-trefoil and common knapweed.



## Uses

A two-year stewardship mixture that provides a nectar source for pollinators.



## Seed rate

30kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Can be broadcasted, or drill just under the surface in standard coulter widths.



## Sowing

J F M A M J J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

N/A



## Bugs & beasts

Not usually a problem.



## Weeds

This mix enables good blackgrass control. The mix can be topped at least twice per year to prevent any blackgrass from heading.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

AB15

# BEETLE BANK



## What is it?

A stewardship grass mix containing cocksfoot, timothy and red fescue.



## Uses

Produces a tussocky grass sward, ideal habitat for insects and ground nesting birds.



## Seed rate

20kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Generally established by broadcasting. If possible lightly harrow and roll, although this is not always practical.



## Sowing

J F M A M J J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes, if possible.



## Fertiliser

20.10.10 250kg/hectare



## Bugs & beasts

Not usually a problem, but slugs can feed on the fresh shoots.



## Weeds

Use a stale seedbed prior to planting and some broadleaf weeds can be controlled post-emergent too.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

AB3

# WILDFLOWER MARGIN



## What is it?

A stewardship mixture containing a combination of traditional grasses and wildflowers.



## Uses

A good stewardship option for enhancing grass margins and field corners.



## Seed rate

20kg/hectare.



## Drilling

Can be broadcasted, or drill just under the surface in standard coulters widths. Be careful not to drill too deep as the seed won't germinate.



## Sowing

J F M A M J J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

N/A



## Bugs & beasts

Not usually a problem.



## Weeds

Use a stale seedbed prior to drilling. The mix should be topped regularly in the first year to prevent weeds from smothering the wildflowers.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

AB8

# WILDFLOWERS



## What is it?

A colourful addition to any farm or garden. We have many different mixtures available.



## Uses

Traditional wildflower meadows are becoming rarer so enhancing wildflower habitats is a worthwhile exercise on any scale. Wildflowers have aesthetic and conservation benefits.



## Seed rate

3-5 grams/square metre.



## Drilling

Can be broadcasted by hand, or drill just under the surface. Be careful not to drill too deep as the seed won't germinate.



## Sowing

J F M A M J J A S O N D



## Seedbed

Fine and firm.



## Roll

Yes.



## Fertiliser

N/A



## Bugs & beasts

Keep an eye out for birds on newly planted plots.



## Weeds

Grass weeds can sometimes be controlled. Generally wildflowers work best when planted into a stale seed bed.



## Plant disease

Not usually a problem.

# KEY STEWARDSHIP DATES

## AB1 Nectar Flower

- Establish between 1st March – 15th September.
- Can mow up to four times in year 1. In subsequent years top once between 15th September and 30th March.
- Can lightly graze between 1st September – 14th March.

## AB3 Beetle Bank

- Cut only after 1st August.

## AB8 Flower Rich Margin

- Establish between 1st March – 15th October.
- Can cut regularly in year 1.
- Can cut or graze 90% of the margin/plot between 15th August – 31st October, to leave a sward height of 10 – 20cm.

## AB9 Winter Bird Food

- Establish between 15th February – 15th June.
- Fertiliser can be applied. A minimum of 50kg N per hectare is recommended.
- Annual mixtures must be left until at least 15th February.

## AB15 Two Year Legume Fallow

- Establish after harvest but before 15th September.
- Cut at least twice in the first year (between 1st March – 31st October).
- Keep until 15th August in the second summer after establishment.
- Do not graze or conserve forage.

## AB16 Autumn Bumble Bird

- Establish after harvest but before 15th September.
- Ideally top in the second spring after establishment (February – March).
- Keep until 15th August in the second summer after establishment.

## SW1 4-6m Buffer Strip on Cultivated Ground

- Once established you can cut 1 – 3 metres of the strip directly next to the arable crop every year, after 15th July.

## GS4 Legume & Herb-Rich Grass

- Leave the established sward untouched for at least a five-week period between 1st May – 31st July.
- Can cut and graze regularly if required.
- Should last for five years.

\*Key stewardship dates published in spring 2020, reference [www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship-grants](http://www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship-grants). Please check for up to date information.

## Notes

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**BRIGHT SEEDS**

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