Product Guide
Gamecover & Conservation Crops
2015
Part of GFP (Agriculture) Ltd
Introduction

The team at Belmont Seeds are pleased to introduce the new 2015 Gamecover product guide. Our partnership with independent seed specialists GFP (Agriculture) Ltd continues to go from strength to strength, maintaining standards of excellence in seed quality and customer service.

We care about our customers and our experienced team can offer advice on selection, establishment and management of gamecover, conservation and green cover crops so you can always feel confident that you have the best product for your specific requirements.

Our processing plant provides unrivalled standards of technology which means we can supply customers around the UK with seed of the highest quality. Our portfolio has been carefully designed to offer a choice of tried and tested seed mixtures to suit different situations. Should you require a bespoke mix then we can offer guidance on selection and management.

Once your order is placed our despatch team can manage it quickly and efficiently but the process doesn’t end there. Should you require further support our expert team are only a phone call away and can also help with advice on soil test analysis, Maxiroot Phosphite seed treatment, specialist fertiliser products and weed control issues.

Choose Belmont for superior customer care and seed which is second to none.

To find out more visit our websites:
www.belmontseeds.co.uk  www.gfpagriculture.co.uk

For advice, information and prices call 01652 636444
Crop Establishment

**Crop Rotation** – reduces soil borne diseases, improves soil fertility and structure. Good rotation of crops will aid control of the more persistent weeds we struggle to control through herbicide applications.

**Cultivations** – Belmont seed is one of the best quality brands available on the market, the best quality seed aids rapid growth which helps against pest attack. Moisture consolidation is imperative for the start of any crop. Seed beds ideally should be fine and firm to reduce slug activity.

**Sowing** – Drill game cover crops, this ensures accurate seed depth and row width and gives maximum seed soil contact. Correct row width will improve bird holding and driving capability. Don’t sow too early, soil temperatures need to be a constant 8 degrees +.

**Fertiliser** – Soil testing is essential but very often overlooked. Farm yard manure is the best way of improving soil structure and adding fertility. Placement fertilisers when drilling can add huge benefits to certain crops root development in the early stages.

**Weed Control** – Often seen as an optional extra! The correct herbicides and insecticides are critical to a crops success. As a key supplier of game cover, conservation and green cover crops in the UK our team can offer guidance on the correct management and supply the required inputs.

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To help establish successful cover crops we can offer the following additional services:

- **Soil Test Analysis**
- **Amaze Foliar Spray**
- **Specialist Fertiliser Products**
Essential guide to maize growing

Selecting the right site
When choosing where to grow maize on the farm, attention should be paid to the following factors when selecting the specific growing sites.

**Altitude** Avoid high altitude sites which will be colder. As a rule of thumb, growers should consider 600 feet (180 metres) above sea level to be very marginal. However, individual fields above 600 feet with lighter, drier soil types that will warm up quickly in spring can be considered.

**Aspect** Ideally, any fields selected for maize should face south, and be sheltered from wind. Fields to avoid are those which are very exposed, or have heavy, poorly drained soils, and any locations which are known to be ‘frost pockets’. An established crop at 2-6 leaf stage can be set back 2-3 weeks by a late May frost. Avoid steeply sloping fields, especially near to water courses to reduce the risk of nitrate leaching from runoff.

**Soil depth** To support its bulk and height, a maize plant requires a very extensive root system. Ideally, crops should be grown where there is at least 2m of soil. If soil depth is less than 1m, then root development is impaired and crops are stunted.

Seedbed preparation
The elimination of soil compaction and preparation of a fine seedbed are essential for successful crop growth.

To avoid compaction becoming an issue, the soil structure needs to be checked immediately after the previous crop and then sub-soiled as required, carried out in the previous autumn – under dry conditions.

Seedbed cultivation can be left until immediately prior to drilling in April or May. The top layer of fine soil needs to have a depth of about 5cm.

Sowing maize
The best time to sow
Do not be tempted to drill too early – as this may expose the crop to frost damage if the growing point is above the soil surface. Maize seed should not be sown until the soil temperature has stabilised to a minimum of 8°C. A soil temperature probe can be used to determine the temperature at seed depth.

In most years, temperatures reach suitable levels between mid April through to early May, depending on the location.

Weed control (pre-emergence)
It is important to know the likely weed burden of land on which maize is to be grown, and then prepare a strategic weed control programme. Herbicides should be selected according to the weed species that are likely to be present. For maize, a range of approved pre-emergence and post-emergence herbicides are available. However, where heavy infestations of weed, for example, couch are present, these are best controlled by applying glyphosate before any cultivation.

Weed control (post-emergence)
Weeds can easily out-compete maize crops, swamping them during the early establishment phase in May and June.

Post-emergence herbicides should be applied as soon as possible after the crop has emerged, as early weed competition has a big effect on final yields. Post-emergence herbicides can be applied up to a plant size of 8 leaves. If left any later, it also becomes more difficult to move through a crop without damaging it.

For information on choice of herbicide, growers should seek an agronomist’s advice.

Fertiliser

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Where organic manures are used the value of the nutrients should be included in the calculation.
Belmont Compact Maize
- Compact growth habit will ensure beating lines are kept straight
- Excellent early vigour and superb standing power
- Ideal for late sowing
- Mesurol treated to control Frit Fly and bird damage
- Packed in 1.1 acre (50,000 seed) units
Crop Height 150-170cm

Why choose this product?
Belmont Compact is very suitable for the more challenging maize growing areas and can be sown as late as mid June.

Belmont All Season
- Our No.1 selling maize variety
- Ideal in a wide range of situations
- Proven mainstay on many successful shoots
- Grown successfully throughout the U.K.
- Treated with ‘Root Boost’. See bottom of this page for benefits
- Packed in 1 acre (45,000 seed) units
Crop Height 180-200cm

Why choose this product?
Well proven over a number of years and used again and again – over 4000 acres sold annually.

Belmont Late Maize
- Very late maturing variety
- Limited to no cob development
- Reduced feed source for rats and badgers
- Tried and tested across UK
- Mesurol treated to control Frit Fly and bird damage
- Packed in 1.1 acre (50,000 seed) units
Crop Height 180-200cm

Why choose this product?
With limited cob development, Belmont Late Maize will reduce rat and badger damage.

Belmont Maize Blend
- A blend of early, intermediate and late varieties
- All varieties selected for good early vigour and standing ability
- Wider feeding window from extended cob development
- If on a tight budget this blend is available with fungicide treatment only
- Packed in 1.1 acre (50,000 seed) units
Crop Height 180-200cm

Why choose this product?
Belmont Maize Blend will achieve a spread of maturity cob ripeness and supply a valuable source of feed.

We pack a quantity of our best selling maize “Belmont All Season” with “Root Boost”

This is specifically designed for use on game maize and is a unique maize seed treatment which gets maize off to the best possible start. We have seen improved results especially when we are trying to establish maize in more challenging years.

This carefully formulated application contains:
- Seed Life
- Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Zinc
- Mesurol
- Polymer coated

Root Boost maximises the nutrient availability around the seed in the very early stages maximising germination (faster development) it gives the seed the best possible start while also providing a reserve of nutrients to draw upon.
Essential guide to sorghum growing

**Soil type/site selection**
Light-medium soils are ideal for sorghum, avoid heavy poorly drained fields and especially those with heavy weed infestations.

**Seedbed and sowing methods**
Early preparation of the seedbed, followed by a fallow period will give better weed control and produce a finer seedbed. Ideally plough in the autumn and avoid compaction. Sorghum requires a firm, fine tilth with moisture retaining qualities. Do not sow too early, May / early June is ideal when soil temperatures are 14-15°C for three consecutive days. The seed is best drilled with an airseeder or standard combi drill. Rolling after sowing will ensure a good seed to soil contact. Sow on 30 inches (same as maize) drill widths at a depth of 1.5-2 inches to gain the best overall results.

**Fertiliser**
As with all crops it is necessary to have a soil with well-balanced fertiliser in order to achieve optimum growth and feed value. Adequate levels of nitrogen, in particular will ensure high protein, fast growth and quick recovery after cutting. As a general guide apply 100kg N/ 25kg P/ 25kg K per hectare into the seedbed. Farmyard manure and slurry can be applied prior to seedbed preparation. Do not apply excessive nitrogen as this may lead to lodging. It is also important to ensure that the pH does not fall below 6.00.

**Weed control**
Weeds can be a major problem in this growth stage as they compete with the developing seedling for moisture nutrients and space. Spraying herbicides to control weeds before planting is one option and growers practicing zero or minimal till operations often use this method. At planting, it is common to use a pre-emergence herbicide. To control annual grasses and broad-leaved weeds we suggest you contact your local agronomist for the best advice about your crop.

**Diseases and pest control**
Overall there are few pests or diseases of great concern. Care should be taken to monitor for wireworms and leather jackets.
B52 (Dwarf)
- Ideal for driving and winter cover
- Can make excellent flushing points within maize
- Excellent replacement for kale
- Add warmth to maize crops when sown adjacent
- Weed control possible
- Not suitable for Northern England or Scotland
- 12 kilo one acre units
Crop Height 90-100cm

Thunderbird 5 (Intermediate)
- Ideal replacement for maize
- Makes excellent controlled driving cover
- Fully tried and tested
- Herbicide use possible
- Best sown in June
- 10 kilo one acre units
Crop Height 120-150cm

A10 (Giant)
- Tall dense cover ideally used for a windbreak around maize
- Good vigour and fast growth
- Can reach a height of 7ft
- Later drilled crops will have reduced height potential
- Crops can screen guns allowing them to get in position without disturbing the birds
- 12 kilo one acre units
Crop Height 200-220cm

Why choose this product?
Low crop canopy, warmth and security makes B52 the ultimate driving crop.

Why choose this product?
If rats and badgers are a problem Thunderbird 5 can provide a similar height to maize without the cob!

Why choose this product?
A10 can be sown later than other Sorghums. Just watch it grow!
Essential guide to kale growing

**Soil type**
Kale grows best on a medium loam soil with a pH of 6.0-7.0. It needs a well-drained field which is free from pans or evidence of soil compaction. If grown on very light soils there is a risk that the crop could suffer from drought post drilling (which will jeopardise seed emergence).

**Seed bed preparation**
A fine, firm moist seedbed is required. The crop will benefit from applications of slurry or FYM and this should be ploughed in. The seedbed should be worked down with the intention of losing as little moisture as possible. Whenever possible create a stale seedbed.

**Sowing**
Kale seed should be sown between mid April and mid July. Early sown crops which establish well are more likely to give the best cover. The seed can be broadcast or sown with a precision drill or root drill. Under normal conditions a seed rate of 4-5kg/ha should be adequate. If seedbed conditions are very dry, or the crop is broadcast, then the rate can be increased slightly as an insurance. The target population is 70 plants/square metre, whichever sowing method is used.

**Fertiliser**
The kale crop will grow extremely well when provided with plenty of organic matter. It is a fast growing crop and it needs plenty of nourishment.

For a soil index of 2 apply 100 units/ha each of P and K to the seedbed. The amount of nitrogen required will depend on the previous cropping. Up to 170 units/ha may be needed after a run of cereals whereas the rate following a crop of intensively grazed grass can fall to 75 units/ha. The nitrogen application can be split for early sown crops; 65% in the seedbed and the balance when the crop has reached a height of 15/16cm. For direct drilled crops it is normally considered wise to increase the nitrogen applied by up to 25% to boost the crop in the establishment phase. Consult your fertiliser supplier for an accurate assessment of your requirements particularly if slurry or FYM has not been used.

**Herbicides**
The control of broad-leaved weeds is vitally important to establish a successful kale crop.

We strongly advise that you consult your local agronomist to get the best advice about your crop.

**Pests & diseases**
In dry years an attack by flea beetle can cause considerable damage to young established crops. Cruiser treated seed will provide some protection against a moderate attack. Slugs can be a problem in direct drilled crops – slug pellets should be considered if this pest is likely to pose a threat. Rabbits and pigeons can also be a problem and control may be necessary in fields which are considered to be especially at risk.

Clubroot represents the major disease threat – it is soil borne so control is by a good rotation of crops. Avoid growing kale on any fields which have a history of clubroot, however Caledonian (clubroot resistant) has been used successfully. Alternaria and mildew can affect crops but attacks are seldom too serious.
**Spitfire Kale Blend**
- A three way blend of Kale and Rape/Kale hybrid
- Extended seed shed in second year with a variation of crop heights
- Winter hardy and full season cover
- High leaf to stem ratio

Crop Height 50-100cm
Flea Beetle treated

**Caledonian**
- The first kale bred with club root resistance
- Caledonian can be continuously sown on brassica sick sites
- A taller kale allowing for easier bird access
- Winter hardy
- Excellent germination and vigour potential
- Bred by JHI, Dundee
- Seed can be supplied treated against flea beetle

Crop Height 90-100cm
Flea Beetle treated

**Keeper**
- A shorter variety with excellent lodging resistance
- Excellent leaf cover with a bare floor
- High leaf to stem ratio
- British bred and fully tested for germination and vigour to ensure maximum establishment
- Winter hardy
- Seed can be supplied treated against flea beetle

Crop Height 80-90cm
Flea Beetle treated

**Hurricane**
(Rape/Kale hybrid)
- Fantastic fast growing rape with kale parentage
- Excellent establishment and early vigour
- Ideal replacement for kale when sown in June or July
- Winter hardy full season cover
- Can be used also as a pioneer or rescue crop

Crop Height 50-100cm
Magic Millet Mixture
- Dense reed millet
- Ideal for use alongside maize
- Windproof and warming
- Good flushing point
- Also contains red and white millet for feed value
- Winter hardy
- Supplied in 5 kilo units
- Our Number One Selling Millet
  Crop Height 100-120cm

Top Flush Millet
- A carefully blended mixture of red and white millets
- Mixture ensures a wider window of seed shed
- Feed value from September to December
- Provides an excellent feed block if sown adjacent to maize
- Can be cross drilled or broadcast in maize crops to add feed value and warmth
- Supplied in 10 kilo units
  Crop Height 80-100cm

Prosso White Millet
- This high yielding type will provide huge seed yields
- Ideal for use with maize crops
- Can be used as a feeding block or flushing point
- Supplied in 10 kilo units
  Crop Height 80-100cm
  We can also supply Red Millet

Why select this crop?
- Will provide very dense cover with some feed value

Why select this crop?
- Feeding birds can be expensive, why not grow your own feed and reduce your costs!

Why select this crop?
- Huge seed yields will provide additional feed and prevent birds from roaming.
Traditional Cover Mix
- Two year full season cover and feed
- Traditional mixture using a wide range of species
- Excellent seed shed from September onwards
- Fantastic colour and insect use
- Perfect winter holding cover
- Fully tried and tested
Crop Height 150-200cm

Scotsman
- Two year full season cover and feed
- Ideal for use in cooler more exposed areas
- Triticale cereal helps resist rabbit damage
- Brood rearing potential
- Suitable for Environmental Stewardship
Crop Height 100cm

Partridge Mix
- Thinner canopy for easier bird access and controlled drives
- Will show birds on the most inclement of days
- Suitable for Environmental Stewardship
- Fully tried and tested
- Huge seed shed potential
Crop Height 90-100cm

Mixture Formulation
- Phacelia
- Sweet Clover
- Millet Blend
- Maize
- Mustard
- Keeper Kale
- Buckwheat
- Sunflower

Why select this crop?
*This mix will provide you with cover and feed throughout a 2 year period.*

Mixture Formulation
- Spring Triticale
- Mustard
- Keeper Kale
- Linseed
- Quinoa

Why select this crop?
*Scotsman will tolerate difficult and low pH soil types, whilst providing quality.*

Mixture Formulation
- Kale
- Mustard
- Linseed
- Sandoval Quinoa

Why select this crop?
*If partridges are your passion then the crop structure of Partridge Mix is ideal.*
**Kale/Quinoa Mix**
- For growers with clubroot problems (Brassica sick land)
- Includes Caledonian (clubroot resistant) kale and Sandoval Quinoa
- A taller kale allows for easier bird access
- Kale is supplied flea beetle treated
- Crop Height 100-120cm

Drilled and supplied in 2.5 kilo one acre units

**Why select this crop?**
Will provide hardy cover with excellent feed value

**Pointer**
- Stomp Aqua Tolerant
- Good weed control options
- Fantastic feed value
- Excellent driving cover
- Full season cover
- Crop Height 150-200cm

**Mixture Formulation**
- Maize
- White Millet
- Spring Triticale
- Dwarf Sorghum

20 kilo one acre units

**Why select this crop?**
Excellent crop structure with ease of spraying

**Cocker**
- Butisan tolerant
- If weed control is your priority this is the mixture for you!
- Herbicide tolerant
- Full season cover for 2 years
- Excellent feed value for pheasants or partridges
- Crop Height 80-90cm

**Mixture Formulation**
- Caledonian Kale
- Mustard
- Fodder Radish
- Linseed

6.5 kilo one acre units

**Why select this crop?**
A fast establishing cover crop with good dense cover
Recovery
- Summer sown drought tolerant cover mixture
- Can be broadcast into cereal stubble
- Can be used for patching areas where drought or flea beetle damage has occurred
- Fodder radish retains its seeds late into the season
- More winter hardy than Mustard
Crop Height 80-100cm

Mixture Formulation
- Brassica Carinata
- Mustard
- Interval Rape/Kale
- Fodder Radish
4.5 kilo one acre unit

Why select this crop?
Has your crop failed or established poorly?
This fast growing recovery mixture can save the day!

Recovery 2
- Fast growing mixture for failed spring sown crops
- Can be planted up to the end of August
- Also useful for patching or overseeding

Mixture Formulation
- Forage Rape
- Stubble Turnip
- Mustard
- Fodder Radish
4.5 kilo one acre unit

Why select this crop?
Later sown rescue crop for failed areas

Carbon (Kale x Mustard hybrid)
- Amazing cover produced in a short period of time
- Best sown in June or July
- From the same plant breeder as Utopia
- Excellent cover by November
- Frost tolerant
- Ideal for new sowings or patching existing areas
- Can be sown into cereal stubble
- Sow at 2 kilos per acre
Crop Height 60-100cm
2 kilo one acre unit

Why select this crop?
Amazing cover in a short period of time
**Sunflower - Sunspot**
- Large attractive flower/seed head production
- Excellent standing ability with thick stems
- Best sown within mixtures
- Excellent use by wild birds
- Drill at 3-5 kilos within mixtures
- Supplied in 10 or 25 kilo units
_Crop Height 130-150cm_

**Reed Canary Grass**
_(Phalaris Aquatica)_
- Perennial cover
- Will grow on poor soils and exposed areas
- Second year growth can reach 2 metres
- Takes two years to become fully established
- Driving or nesting cover
- Drilled and supplied in 2.5 kilo one acre units
_Crop Height First Year 50-60cm_  
_Crop Height Subsequent Years 150cm_

**Fodder Radish**
- Quick growing versatile plant
- Use for failed cover
- Spring or autumn sown
- Ability to smother out weed competition
- Supplied in 10 or 25 kilo units
- Drill at 4 kilos per acre
_Crop Height 30-60cm_

**Phacelia**
- Extremely fast growing catch crop
- Brilliant pretty blue flowers attract huge numbers of insects
- Pollen and nectar provider
- Competes well with weeds
- Care should be taken in following crops as phacelia can reseed itself readily
- Drill at 4 kilos per acre
- Supplied in 5 kilo units
_Crop Height 30-60cm_

**Sandoval Quinoa**
- Capable of shedding up to 1 tonne of seed per acre
- Sheds high protein seed which will help reduce feed bills
- Seeds are highly sought by pheasants, partridges and farmland birds
- Ideal for use with companion crops such as Keeper kale or Interval Rape/Kale hybrid
- Drilled and supplied in 2 kilo one acre units
_Crop Height 80-150cm_

**OTHER USEFUL CROPS**

- Why select this crop?  
  **Add a splash of colour to your drives**

- Why select this crop?  
  **Useful for difficult to cultivate areas**

- Why select this crop?  
  **Good winter seed holding capabilities**

- Why select this crop?  
  **Excellent pollen source for bees**

- Why select this crop?  
  **Free source of high protein feed**
**Buckwheat**
- Thick bushy seed producing plant
- Seed shed occurs in early autumn
- Very fast establishment with some weed smothering properties
- Can be used adjacent to flight ponds to attract ducks and geese
- Can be sown in woodland glades
- Drilled and supplied in 25 kilo one acre units
  
  **Crop Height** 70-120cm

**Why select this crop?**
- Good seed shed for easy bird feeding

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**Linseed**
- Very fast establishment
- Tolerates a wide range of soil types
- Broken canopy is very attractive to partridges
- Autumn seed shed produces a palatable feed
- Drilled and supplied in 25 kilo one acre units
  
  **Crop Height** 60-70cm

**Why select this crop?**
- Great for partridges and brooding chicks

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**Sweet Clover**
- A nectar producing biennial clover
- Thrives on neutral and calcareous soils
- Ability to fix "free nitrogen"
- Second year growth can reach 1-2 metres in height
- Best sown in conjunction with kale or canary grass
- Drill in a shallow seedbed at 4 kilos per acre
- Supplied in 10 kilo packs
  
  **Crop Height** 85-150cm

**Why select this crop?**
- Excellent long term dense cover

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**Mustard**
- Fast establishment and drought tolerant cover
- Ideal summer sown catch crop
- Broadcast or drill into cereal stubble
- Resilient to rabbit damage because of its rapid establishment
- Drill at 4 kilos per acre
- Supplied in 10 kilo units
  
  **Crop Height** 30-100cm

**Why select this crop?**
- Easy way to thicken up a poorly established drive

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**Spring Triticale Trimour**
- The best cereal crop for gamecover situations
- Increased seed head emergence and feed value
- Will tolerate poorer soils with low pH levels
- Resilient to rabbit damage
- Seed heads should remain late into the winter months
- Drill at 75 kilos per acre
- Supplied in 25 kg units
  
  **Crop Height** 90-100cm

**Why select this crop?**
- Holds onto its seed longer than wheat

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**Chicory**
- Perennial chicory
- Spring sown
- Excellent driving cover in second year
- Deep rooted
- Drought tolerant
- Best mixed with other species in first year
- Drilled and supplied in 2.5 kilo one acre units
  
  **Crop Height** 150-200cm (second year)

**Why select this crop?**
- Excellent perennial cover, easy to establish

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**OTHER USEFUL CROPS**
**Forage Rape - Hobson**
- Fast growing summer sown brassica
- Excellent disease resistance
- Very winter hardy
- Can be sown up to the end of August
- Drilled and supplied in 5 kilo two acre units
  
  **Crop Height 50-90cm**

**Ethiopian Mustard**
- Summer sown cover crop
- Better winter hardiness than white mustard
- Variety: Texsel Greens
- Ideal for use on areas where spring sown cover has failed
- Drill 2.5 kilos per acre
- Supplied in 1 kilo units
  
  **Crop Height 40-70cm**

**Fodder Beet**
- Excellent partridge cover
- Large root growing out of the ground
- Excellent leaf canopy
- Good replacement for sugar beet
- Drilled and supplied in 50,000 seed one acre units (pelleted seed)

**Artichokes**
- Tall dense permanent cover
- Best grown in ridged rows
- Requires annual thinning as it can get too dense
- Difficult to eradicate once established
- Drill at 500 kilos per acre
- Supplied in 25 kilo bags
  
  **Crop Height 200-250cm**

**Spring Beans**
- Provides an excellent source of feed, especially suited for areas that cannot produce maize
- Limited cover, so better sown with kale or other suitable cover providers
- Can be sown in feed blocks adjacent to driving crops
- Drilled at 75 kilos per acre
  
  **Crop Height 80-100cm**

**Rearing Pen Mix**
- Ideal for producing release pen areas
- Amenity grasses produce a good dense floor
- Hard wearing
- Ideal for birds to dry off and feed
- Can be left uncut to produce taller cover
- Estate can grow in shaded areas
- Drilled and supplied in 20 kilo one acre units

**Why select this crop?**
- An easy to grow hardy leafy crop
- Best sown in the summer and early autumn
- Good partridge cover
- Will last for ever!
- Best sown in more exposed areas as a source of feed
- A hard wearing grass mixture for heavy foot fall
At Jepco we need cover crops and environmental mixtures that will last and deliver. Matt’s advice and recommendations over the past few years have definitely done this. Their company’s approach to seed advice is both practical and up to date and the team are always on hand when we need them for field visits or at the end of a telephone.

Ben Dodson, Jepco

Belmont Seeds consistently deliver on product advice, delivery, quality, price and friendly service. They are a pleasure to work with.

Trumpington Estate, Cambridge

The maize that we purchased from Belmont Seeds went into the ground well and grew at a good rate ready for our 2013/14 shooting season. It provided good cobs and stood up to our varied weather conditions. It buckled over at 18 inches giving good cover all season. The service the Estate received from Belmont was excellent and we will certainly be using them again this forthcoming season.

Sir Richard Sutton’s Settled Estates

We trust GFP to deliver top quality seed on time. They offer excellent technical advice and customer service from start to finish.

Mark Richardson, Warter Estates
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<td>B=20kg</td>
<td>April-May</td>
<td>July-Feb</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving Cover</td>
<td>Partridge Mix</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>D=6.5kg</td>
<td>April-May</td>
<td>Sept-Feb</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving Cover</td>
<td>Pointer</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>D=20kg</td>
<td>April-May</td>
<td>Sept-Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>Driving Cover</td>
<td>Cocker</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>D=6.5kg</td>
<td>April-May</td>
<td>Sept-Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>Driving Cover</td>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>D=38,000-43,000 seeds</td>
<td>April-May</td>
<td>Sept-Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>Driving Cover</td>
<td>Sorghum</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>D=10-12kg</td>
<td>April-May</td>
<td>July-Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>Driving Cover</td>
<td>Kale</td>
<td>1 kilo</td>
<td>D=2kg B=3kg</td>
<td>April-June</td>
<td>Sept-March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Holding</td>
<td>Millet</td>
<td>10 kilos</td>
<td>D=5kg</td>
<td>April-May</td>
<td>Sept-Dec</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Holding</td>
<td>Quinoa</td>
<td>2 kilos</td>
<td>D=2kg</td>
<td>April-May</td>
<td>Sept-Dec</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Holding</td>
<td>Fodder Beet</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>D=50,000 seeds</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>Sept-Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Holding</td>
<td>Kale/Quinoa Mix</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>D=2.5kg</td>
<td>April-May</td>
<td>Sept-Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Holding</td>
<td>Sunflower</td>
<td>10 kilos</td>
<td>D=4kg B=7kg</td>
<td>April-May</td>
<td>July-Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Holding</td>
<td>Buckwheat</td>
<td>25 kilos</td>
<td>D=50kg</td>
<td>March-April</td>
<td>Sept-Dec</td>
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<td>Winter Holding</td>
<td>Triticale</td>
<td>25 kilos</td>
<td>D=50kg</td>
<td>March-April</td>
<td>Sept-Dec</td>
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<td><strong>Perennial Solutions</strong></td>
<td>Canary Grass</td>
<td>2.5 kilos</td>
<td>D=2.5kg</td>
<td>April-May</td>
<td>Sept-Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>Driving Cover</td>
<td>Reed Canary Grass</td>
<td>2.5 kilos</td>
<td>D=2.5kg</td>
<td>April-May</td>
<td>Sept-Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>Driving Cover</td>
<td>Chicory Choice</td>
<td>2.5 kilos</td>
<td>D=2.5kg</td>
<td>May-June</td>
<td>Sept-Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Catch Crops</strong></td>
<td>Recovery</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>B=4.5kg</td>
<td>June-Aug</td>
<td>Sept-Feb</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Holding</td>
<td>Recovery 2</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>B=4.5kg</td>
<td>June-Aug</td>
<td>Sept-Feb</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Holding</td>
<td>Carbon</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>B=4.5kg</td>
<td>June-Aug</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Holding</td>
<td>Mustard</td>
<td>10 kilos</td>
<td>D=4kg B=7kg</td>
<td>May-Sept</td>
<td>Aug-Dec</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Holding</td>
<td>Phacelia</td>
<td>5 kilos</td>
<td>D=2kg</td>
<td>April-June</td>
<td>Sept-Nov</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Holding</td>
<td>Texsel Greens</td>
<td>1 kilo</td>
<td>D=2.5kg</td>
<td>June-Aug</td>
<td>Sept-Jan</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Holding</td>
<td>Interval</td>
<td>5 kilos</td>
<td>D=2.5kg</td>
<td>April-July</td>
<td>Sept-Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Biennial Crops</strong></td>
<td>Sweet Clover</td>
<td>5 kilos</td>
<td>D=2.5kg</td>
<td>April-May</td>
<td>July-Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Environmental Products</strong></td>
<td>WM2</td>
<td>5 kilos</td>
<td>D=5kg</td>
<td>April-Sept</td>
<td>–</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buffer</td>
<td>Basic Habitat</td>
<td>8 kilos</td>
<td>D=8kg</td>
<td>April-Sept</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buffer</td>
<td>HE10</td>
<td>5 kilos</td>
<td>D=10kg</td>
<td>April-Sept</td>
<td>–</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buffer</td>
<td>EF4</td>
<td>5 kilos</td>
<td>D=5kg</td>
<td>April-Sept</td>
<td>–</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wild Bird Seed Mix</td>
<td>2 yr WBSM</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>D=20kg</td>
<td>April-May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wild Bird Seed Mix</td>
<td>1 yr WBSM</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>D=20kg</td>
<td>April-May</td>
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</table>

**Key:** D = Drilled  B = Broadcast
Stewardship and CAP Reform Update

With the CAP reform work ongoing within the European Union, growers are understandably cautious of the future for stewardship schemes and their funding. The implementation of the New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS) is due to begin in the next two years. This will provide the much needed clarification and structure on which future environmental stewardship work will progress.

As we wait for the final confirmation on topics such as ‘greening’, ‘environmental focus areas’ (EFAs) etc, be assured that the ongoing requirement for habitat improvement work will continue. For details of how we can help your conservation or stewardship project please contact us.

Supplementary Feeding and Stewardship

Do not overlook the opportunity to consider the supplementary feeding options available within existing Environmental Stewardship (ES) agreements. These valuable options are beneficial for the farm business and farmland birds and are well worth considering as a bolt on option where you already have an ES agreement with Natural England.

The Belmont team is able to advise on the correct mixture prescription for your agreement and supply a range of options from a full mix containing all the required ingredients through to individual straights that you can use to make up your own mixtures with home saved elements. We take pride in supplying the highest quality ingredients to avoid the risk of introducing unwanted weed species such as rogue millets and amaranth that are commonly encountered when using budget feed stuffs.

Both of these mixtures are designed to meet the needs of option HF24 within Higher Level Stewardship agreements:

**KHF24FULL**
A mix of wheat, oats, oilseed rape, red millet, white millet, canary seed, whole sunflowers, sunflowers hearts and linseed.

**KHF24PRE**
A mix of oilseed rape, oats, red millet, white millet, canary seed, whole sunflowers, sunflowers hearts and linseed ready to add to home saved wheat.

Both can be supplied in 25kg or 500kg bulk bags.
# ELS & Campaign for the Farmed Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Higher Level Stewardship</th>
<th>Wild Bird Seed Mixtures &amp; Gamestrips</th>
<th>Grass Buffers, Margins &amp; Headlands</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Option Code</strong></td>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
<td><strong>Belmont 2yr WBSM</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>HF4</td>
<td>Enhanced Nectar Flower Mixture</td>
<td>Biennial</td>
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<tr>
<td>HE12</td>
<td>Floristically Enhanced Grass Margins</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF12</td>
<td>Enhanced Wild Bird Seed Mixture</td>
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</table>

**Entry Level Stewardship**

- **EC24** Hedgerow Tree Buffer Strips
- **EE1** 2m Buffer Strip On Cultivated Land
- **EE2** 4m Buffer Strip On Cultivated Land
- **EE3** 6m Buffer Strip On Cultivated Land
- **EE8** Buffering in Field Ponds - Arable
- **EE12** Supplement to add wildflowers to field corners & buffer strips
- **EK20** Ryegrass seed set as food for birds
- **EF1** Management of Field Corners
- **EF2** Wild Bird Seed Mixture
- **EF4** Nectar Flower Mixture
- **EF22** Extended Overwintered Stubble
- **EG1** Undersown Spring Cereals
- **EJ2** Undersown Maize Crop
- **EJ9** 12m Buffer Strip
- **EJ10** Cover Crop After Maize
- **EJ13** Winter Cover Crops

**CFE Voluntary Measures**

- **C1** Grass Buffers near Watercourses
- **C3a** Reverted Arable Areas
- **C7b** Resource Protection on Vulnerable Soils
- **C9** Wild Bird Seed Mixture
- **C10** Game strips
- **C12 (a & b)** Pollen & Nectar Mixtures
- **C13** Sown Wildflower Headlands
**Pollen & Nectar Heaven**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WM2</th>
<th>EF4</th>
<th>Bee Mixture</th>
<th>AWF6</th>
<th>Economy 90 Wildflower</th>
<th>Mustard</th>
<th>Grass Ley</th>
<th>Forage Rye</th>
<th>Winter Cover</th>
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**Specialist Areas & wild flowers**

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<tr>
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<th>AWF6</th>
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**Other options**

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<tr>
<th>WM2</th>
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**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Whilst we have taken every care in the preparation of this guide it is not a substitute for reading the official rules and regulations associated with the various schemes currently in operation. It is vitally important that you keep fully up-to-date with the latest regulations in force at the time you make your seed purchasing decisions. This information can normally be obtained from various sites on the internet or via direct contact with the appropriate government offices in your locality.
WILD BIRD SEED MIXTURES

Autumn Wild Bird Seed Mixture
• Best sown in September/October
• Fantastic brood rearing cover the following spring
• Phacelia adds colour and insect use
• Seed shed from late summer onwards
• Fully tried and tested
• Suitable for HLS

Belmont 2 yr WBSM Mix
• A combination of six small seed bearing crops
• Succession of feed sources
• Triticale and Quinoa provides excellent feed for both wild birds and reared game
• Spring sown
• Suitable for HLS

Belmont 1 yr Bird Mix
• Fantastic brood rearing potential
• Good spread of seed shedding dates
• Tried and tested by our customers
• Herbicide tolerant
• Spring sown
• Suitable for HLS

Mixture Formulation
• Spring Triticale
• Fodder Radish
• Phacelia
• Linseed
• 15 kilo one acre units

Why select this crop?
• Easy to grow with herbicide tolerance

Mixture Formulation
• Spring Triticale
• Kale
• Fodder Radish
• 20 kilo one acre units

Why select this crop?
• A great mixture to provide a succession of food

Mixture Formulation
• Spring Triticale
• Spring Barley
• Quinoa
• White Millet
• 20 kilo one acre units

Why select this crop?
• Autumn sown option with fantastic brood rearing potential

Mixture Formulation
• Triticale
• Fodder Radish
• Magic Millet
• Red and White Millet
• Dwarf Sorghum
• 20 kilo one acre units
How to calculate the area of buffer strips to the nearest hectare

Measure the length of each strip in metres.

**To convert this to hectares:**

\[
\begin{align*}
4 \text{ metre x length of strip} & = \text{Area in metres squared}, \text{ divide by } 10,000 = \text{hectares} \\
6 \text{ metre x length of strip} & = \text{Area in metres squared}, \text{ divide by } 10,000 = \text{hectares}
\end{align*}
\]

**HE10 (Floristically enhanced grass buffer mixture)**
- Ideal for field margins and buffers
- The mixture contains a blend of 50% grasses and 50% wild flowers
- Meets the HLS requirements for option HE10
- The mixture will produce a habitat for bees and butterflies in the second year
- The area can be mowed in the first year to help tillering

5kg one acre unit

**Basic Habitat**
- Ideally suited for either 2, 4 or 6 metre buffer strips
- Contains grasses that are the food plants of several butterflies and insects
- Once established the mixture can help protect habitats from sprays and fertiliser applications
- Sow spring or autumn

8kg one acre unit

**Belmont Buffer**
- For all field margin use
- Simple mix to fulfil minimum standards
- Fast establishing, easy to maintain
- Sow spring or autumn
- Does not contain Cocksfoot

8kg one acre unit

**Mixture Formulation**

**Grasses**
- Red Fescue
- Crested Dogstail
- Meadow Fescue
- Smooth Stalked Meadow Grass

**Wild flowers**
- Yarrow
- Black Knapweed
- Oxeye Daisy
- Birdsfoot Trefoil
- Field Scabious
- Selfheal

**Why select this crop?**
- A colourful mixture of grasses and wildflowers

**Mixture Formulation**

**Grasses**
- Chewings Fescue
- Common Bent
- Smooth Stalked Meadow Grass
- Rough Stalked Meadow Grass
- Timothy

**Wild flowers**
- Cocksfoot
- Meadow Fescue
- Tall Fescue
- Sheep/hard Fescue
- Crested Dogstail
- Red Clover

**Why select this crop?**
- A broad spectrum grass mixture that will cover the basic requirements of any scheme

**Mixture Formulation**

**Grasses**
- Creeping Red Fescue
- Chewings Fescue
- Meadow Fescue
- Timothy
- Smooth Stalked Meadow Grass
- Common Bent

**Why select this crop?**
- Cocksfoot free mixture for margins and field corners
WM2 (Grass & Pollen)
- Rich in food for many butterflies and bees
- Contains four nectar rich plants (red clover, vetch, sainfoin and birds-foot trefoil) and grasses
- Ideal habitat for foraging insects
- Suitable for arable or grassland areas
Sown and supplied in 5 kilo one acre units

EF4 (Grass Free)
- A wonderful pollen and nectar mixture
- Rich in food for many butterflies and bees
- Contains four key nectar rich plants (red clover, alsike clover, sainfoin and birds-foot trefoil)
- A perennial area for pollinators and natural predators
Sown and supplied in 5 kilo one acre units

Bee Mixture
- A blend created to attract and maintain bumblebee populations
- Phacelia acts as a prolific flowering nurse crop whilst the red clover and sainfoin establish
- The phacelia will produce a fantastic display of purple flowers that bees will love
- You will be able to hear the mixture buzz!
Sown and supplied in 5 kilo one acre units

Mixture Formulation
- Crested Dogtail
- Meadow Fescue
- Chewings Fescue
- Sheep’s Fescue
- Red Clover
- Birdsfoot Trefoil

Mixture Formulation
- Alsike Clover
- Red Clover
- Birdsfoot Trefoil
- Sainfoin

Mixture Formulation
- Phacelia
- Red Clover
- Sainfoin
- Alsike Clover
- Birdsfoot Trefoil

Why select this crop?
A grass and pollen mixture for long term areas

Why select this crop?
For use as a pollen and nectar booster

Why select this crop?
Excellent and colourful mixture to attract bees
Wild flowers are a very important part of the countryside as they provide a rich, colourful and diverse ecological habitat for many insects and wildlife species. They also offer great aesthetic value to enhance the natural beauty of the British countryside.

**Mixture composition**

We have carefully formulated our wild flower mixtures to meet a number of different soil types and habitats. All of our AWF mixtures contain 20% native British produced wild flowers and low maintenance grass species that will act as a nurse crop and help suppress the weeds, whilst allowing the wild flowers to flourish.

- AWF 1 Shaded areas and woodlands
- AWF 2 Wetland soils, river banks and pond surrounds
- AWF 3 Lime/Calcareous Soils, overlying limestone and chalk
- AWF 4 Clay soils
- AWF 5 Acid soils, low pH
- AWF 6 Loam/alluvial soils
- AWF 7 Hedgerows and woodland margins
- AWF 8 Sandy and free draining soils
- **Cornfield Annuals** Traditional wild flowers that thrive in cereal crops

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**Economy 90 Wild Flower Mixture**

- A great value native grass and wild flower mixture
- Ideal for sown wild flower headlands CFE option C13
- Contains key species to produce a wonderful habitat
- Good nectar source for a range of insects
- Fantastic colour splash

*Supplied in a 1 kilo unit*
Cover Crops – autumn sown

What are they?
Cover crops are usually fast growing annuals that are planted between 2 harvested cash crops. They are instead of bare uncropped land and are often called – Green manures or Catch crops.

Why grow them?
Bare land can initially have a considerable store of nutrients, especially Nitrogen left from a previous crop but without a cover crop over the autumn and winter most of this Nitrogen can leach into watercourses. As fast growing annuals they can 'harvest sunshine' in the early growing period after a cereal harvest. This produces biomass and this creates:

- **Organic matter** that will enrich the soil and promote a healthy soil Biota – Soil Health is a key benefit.
- **Root structures** that will help improve soil structure, drainage and reduce erosion and sediment run off into water courses that may take Phosphate with it.
- **Leaf material** that draws up soil Nitrogen and holds it in it leaf mass. The nitrogen then can be recycled into the next crop. – Helping farm nitrogen efficiency.
- **Extra benefits** – by selecting specific cover crop species and varieties they can help with:
  - Reducing nematode levels –especially BCN. by selecting proven accredited varieties.
  - Livestock grazing.
  - Additional soil Nitrogen by N fixation.
  - Reducing spring cultivations –direct drill opportunity.
  - Ongoing work indicates that some crops can help with Blackgrass reduction. – see photos on next page

All these factors add up to higher yielding cash crops, financial savings, compliance with CAP Greening and environmental protection.

What species are used?
There is a very wide range of species that can be used. Chiefly they are all fast growing annuals that are freely available, with cheap seed at low seed rates. Fast growth in August and September is a key requirement.

Careful species selection offers
Root size and depth, high Nitrogen catching ability, Nitrogen fixation, high biomass production fast, little pest and disease influence, low impact on the other crops in a rotation and easy destruction and soil incorporation.

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They can be sown as straights or mixtures.

There are 4 main groups that can be selected:

- **Brassicas** – Radish, Mustard, Turnips. These are the chief cover crop group. Fast growing, deep roots top Nitrogen catching ability – care needed in a rape rotation. Radish is the only brassica with Clubroot resistance. Specific Radish and Mustard varieties offer Nematode reduction through various techniques and a choice of frost sensitive or frost hardy types.

- **Cereals** – Oats and Rye are important. Forage rye is useful as it grows strongly at low temperatures and produces high biomass. Strigosa oats are useful as also produce high biomass with some nematode reduction.

- **Legumes** – Chiefly vetch and clovers. These can fix Nitrogen and are good at improving soil health. Important to use annual fast growing species. There is a choice of winter hardy types.

- **Other crops** – There are other very useful crops that grow fast – Phacelia, Buckwheat and ryegrass. Beware of a temptation to use crops that may not grow well in a typical UK autumn, are expensive or may have issues with other crops in a rotation

Private 2013/14 trial

Cover crop Nitrogen capture data.

*Crop tested. 2nd week January. Direct drilled into wheat stubble. Oxfordshire. 18 kg / N at drilling.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Fresh weight Ton /ha</th>
<th>Dry matter Ton /ha</th>
<th>N in leaves Kg N /ha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oil radish</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turnip rape</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forage rye</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mustard</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Nitrogen above had been paid for by grower – Why let it go into a river? Do note Dry matter.
When to use Cover crops?
Mostly used after a cereal crop and before any spring planted crop. To be of value, most need at least 8 weeks growth from July or August plantings and so can also be used after W.Barley or Rape and before a later planted winter wheat crop.

Generally leave the Cover crop as long as possible.

What soil types?
All soil types. Particularly useful on light or medium soils where there is a high risk of N leaching.

But growers can consider:
• Broadcasting into the cereal crop before harvest.
• Autocasting from the combine.
• A seeder unit on a cultivator/disc unit.
• Broadcast followed by ring roll or straw rake.

Generally consider the methods that conserve moisture, are fast and cheap. However do consider seed size – e.g. large seeded vetch needs drilling. Do take care with mixtures in the seed hopper to avoid separation of the mixture and check calibration regularly.

Do consider a small amount of N at drilling to ‘kick start’ fast growth (15-20kg N/ha). Liquid or solid and plus S03?

How and when to sow?
The aim is to sow immediately or as soon as feasible after the previous crop to make maximum use of tilth, moisture and soil temperature. This then minimises the nutrient loss.

Sowing methods will depend on individual farms, soil type, straw handling and seed species to be sown. Many crops are best sown directly into the stubble as above right.

Sowing rate?
This will vary considerably depending on seed size /TGW, species sowing date and if a mixture.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mustard</th>
<th>200 seeds sq m</th>
<th>5g/1000 seeds = 10 kg /ha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Radish</td>
<td>200 seeds sq m</td>
<td>10g/1000 seeds = 20 kg /ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vetch</td>
<td>80 seeds sq m</td>
<td>50g/1000 seeds = 40 kg /ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berseem clover</td>
<td>300 seeds sq m</td>
<td>3g/1000 seeds = 9 kg /ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Generally aim for a thick crop that will quickly put a root into every cubic cm of soil = maximum benefit.

Pests and weeds?
Mostly these crops are tough, fast growing and resilient and if sown thick enough smoother weeds. However do consider/look out for:
• Removing cereal volunteers if there are too many.
• Look out for slugs – but usually little affected.
• Flea beetle/sawfly caterpillars etc – often no issue.

Mustards and radish often have high Glucosinolate levels that deter many pests. However crops do still need monitoring for pests in the cotyledon stage.

Crop destruction/removal?
Depends on the species used and next crop.

The choices are initially:
• Graze off with livestock, flail down, Do nothing, or use Glyphosate which may need considerable time in January to do the job? Do carefully consider wetter, water conditioner and addition of other herbicides – fast growing radish with a bulb will not want to die so care is needed.

• Then follow with plough, cultivate, strip till or direct drill.

Cover crops do offer the opportunity to look at direct drilling and strip tilling.

Blackgrass opportunity?
Photos below side by side plots of Ryegrass and Radish, taken 2nd week in Jan 14 on a min till, high Blackgrass farm, direct drilled after wheat.

Key points for success:
• Choose best species (and variety)
• Correct seed rate – high enough.
• Sow as early as possible – Critical.
• Carefully consider destruction and spring cultivation options.
• Success is linked to ‘volume of crop’ and ‘tonnage of DM’ produced.

For technical help contact:
The GFP Team on 01652 636444
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We accept Mastercard, Maestro, Visa, Visa Electron, Solo, American Express

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