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GRASS & SMALL SEEDS 2024



MSP Diamond mixture at
Dinnet Estate, Aberdeenshire

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WELCOME

We have been able to strengthen our grass seed mixtures again for 2024 by using some of the highest rated grass and clover varieties available, with our independent position in the market enabling us to choose the varieties that we feel best match each customer's requirements.



Ensuring quality from year-to-year is key and we only use first-choice varieties from the SAC and NIAB Recommended Lists. We evaluate all attributes of a variety before then progressing on to produce our balanced grass seed mixtures: from Short Term Leys to Permanent Pasture Long Term Grazing.

Last year, we saw spells of both very dry and very wet weather and, as always, the newer leys have been the most resilient and responsive. Newer leys have helped with yields and, ultimately, value for money – whether it be feed value or return from money spent on fertiliser.

As well as our long-established grass seed mixtures, we have seen a continued growth in our forage crop sales. This is not only down to the quality options we have for kale, hybrid

kale, forage rape or turnips, but also from the technical support provided by our FACTS & BASIS qualified Farm Traders (see pages 46-47), who take pride in our fully integrated approach – from establishment considerations to agronomy support.

Sustainability is also gaining momentum and is an important focus for our small seeds department. We are constantly receiving information on policy changes and are investing heavily into trials to not only study differences between species, but also to have tried and tested options throughout our trading area, which runs from the Highlands of Scotland down to North Yorkshire.

Ultimately, our objective is to be in the best position possible to help the crops, animals, soil and the environment.

Alasdair Ralston
Feeds & Small Seeds Manager

ULTIMATELY, OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO BE IN THE BEST POSITION POSSIBLE TO HELP THE CROPS, ANIMALS, SOIL AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

VARIETIES USED IN OUR MIXTURES

ITALIAN RYEGRASS

Barimax (Tetraploid)

Barenbrug

Barimax is the first Barenbrug-bred Italian ryegrass to be first-choice recommended in Scotland and performs very well throughout the year, with excellent mid and late season performance.

Meribel (Diploid)

LG Seeds

Meribel is one of the denser Italian ryegrasses with a high yield ranking in both harvest years. Seasonal production is distributed more towards the latter part of the growing season.

INTERMEDIATE PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

Aberclyde (Tetraploid)

Germinal

Aberclyde is a very high yielding grass under both grazing and silage managements with notably good grazing quality and a very high two-cut digestible silage yield.

Abergreen (Diploid)

Germinal

Abergreen offers good conservation and grazing yields, especially during mid-season. It also boasts good quality and ground cover.

Abermagic (Diploid)

Germinal

Abermagic is an outstanding variety for yield and quality. As well as being later heading, it sets new standards under grazing, particularly in autumn growth with good quality and ground cover.

Aberzeus (Diploid)

Germinal

Aberzeus provides excellent yields under both cutting and grazing, with a particular focus on late season grazing. It also has good D-value under grazing.

Boyne (Diploid)

DLF Seeds

Boyne provides good yields under both grazing and cutting, with great spring growth. It performs better when cut early but, overall, has good quality all season.

Fintona (Tetraploid)

Barenbrug

Fintona delivers exceptional performance under both cutting and grazing and with good sward density and grass quality, it is setting new standards in this intermediate perennial ryegrass group.

Gosford (Diploid)

Barenbrug UK

Generally good all round yields with particularly good mid to late season grazing productivity.

Nifty (Diploid)

DLF Seeds

Nifty offers good grazing yields and excellent ground cover, making it an outstanding grazing variety throughout the season.

Pensel (Tetraploid)

LG Seeds

Pensel gives good early season growth under both cutting and grazing for a variety heading at the end of the group. It also provides good quality at first cut.

Seagoe (Tetraploid)

Barenbrug

Seagoe delivers good conservation yields, especially at first cut and in the first harvest year. It has very good grazing yields for an intermediate tetraploid variety, with very good early and late season growth.

LATE PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

Abergain (Tetraploid) Germinal

Abergain is an outstanding addition to the Recommended List. It has yield and quality, combined with remarkable spring growth. Ground cover is a little open, but it has great vigour.

Ballintoy (Tetraploid) Barenbrug

Ballintoy is a top performer under grazing and silage regimes. It has a particularly excellent early grazing yield, as well as a consistent growth pattern throughout growing season.

Evocative (Diploid) DLF Seeds

Evocative offers good overall conservation and grazing yields with relatively good herbage quality under conservation. It has a great rust resistance and a high ground cover and, overall, with Evocative you are very flexible in how the field is utilised.

Nashota (Tetraploid) DLF Seeds

Nashota has fairly good productivity for both grazing and conservation along with a relatively good conservation first cut digestibility. It has excellent ground cover under grazing management, with good ground cover under conservation management, while it also has excellent disease resistance.

Toddington (Diploid) DLF Seeds

Another popular selection in our mixtures this year, Toddington delivers good yields under both conservation and grazing, with good quality to boot. It also has good second cut yields under conservation and good late summer growth under grazing, with good disease resistance.

Twymax (Tetraploid) LG Seeds

Twymax is an excellent variety, particularly under grazing management with good early growth. It also has good ground cover and mid-season digestibility.

HYBRID RYEGRASS

AstonCrusader (Tetraploid) DSV Seeds

AstonCrusader produces a very high total annual yield with an extraordinary early spring growth. Combined with excellent disease resistance, AstonCrusader is a top variety in this segment.

HYBRID FESCUE

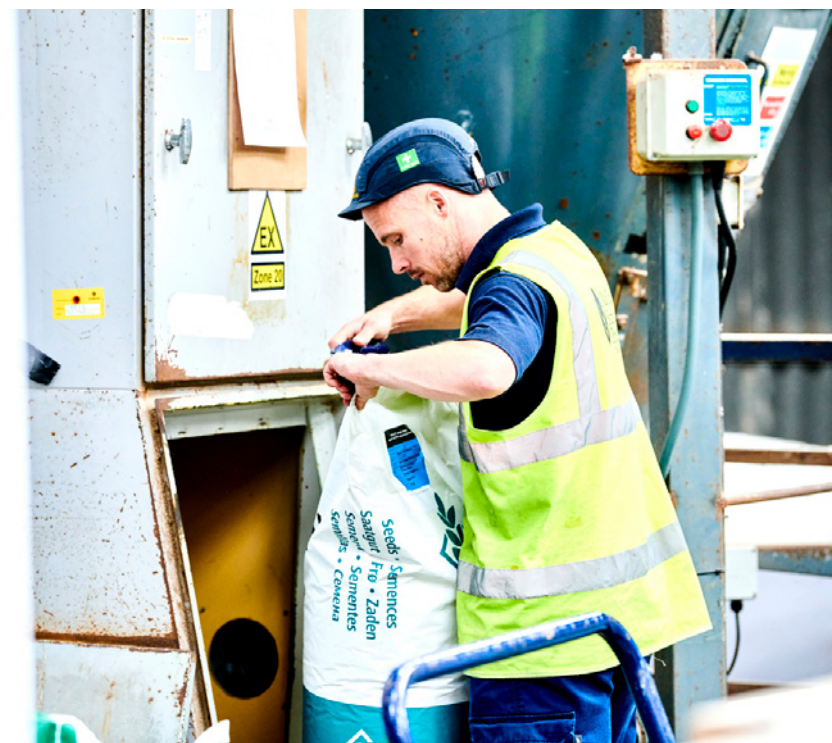
Lofa DLF Seeds

Lofa has many properties in common with an Italian ryegrass, in particular the very fast establishment and high yield in the first cut. But what makes Lofa special is the less aggressive growth, making it a very good companion grass for legumes and other grass species.

TIMOTHY

Comer LG Seeds

Comer is one of the highest performing Timothys in the marketplace, especially in terms of spring grazing. It has excellent two-cut silage yields from swards of a typical erect type for an early Timothy.



WHITE CLOVER

Alice (Large Leaf) Barenbrug

With its large leaves, Alice achieves a high clover content and has a high grazing persistency. It also produces high total sward and excellent clover yields, which are maintained at a high level throughout the growing season.

Iona (Medium Leaf)

Iona is a useful addition to the medium leaf size group showing good ground cover under rotational grazing.

Merwi (Medium Leaf) LG Seeds

Merwi is a medium leaved, productive variety that is best suited to light defoliation.

Violin (Large Leaf) LG Seeds

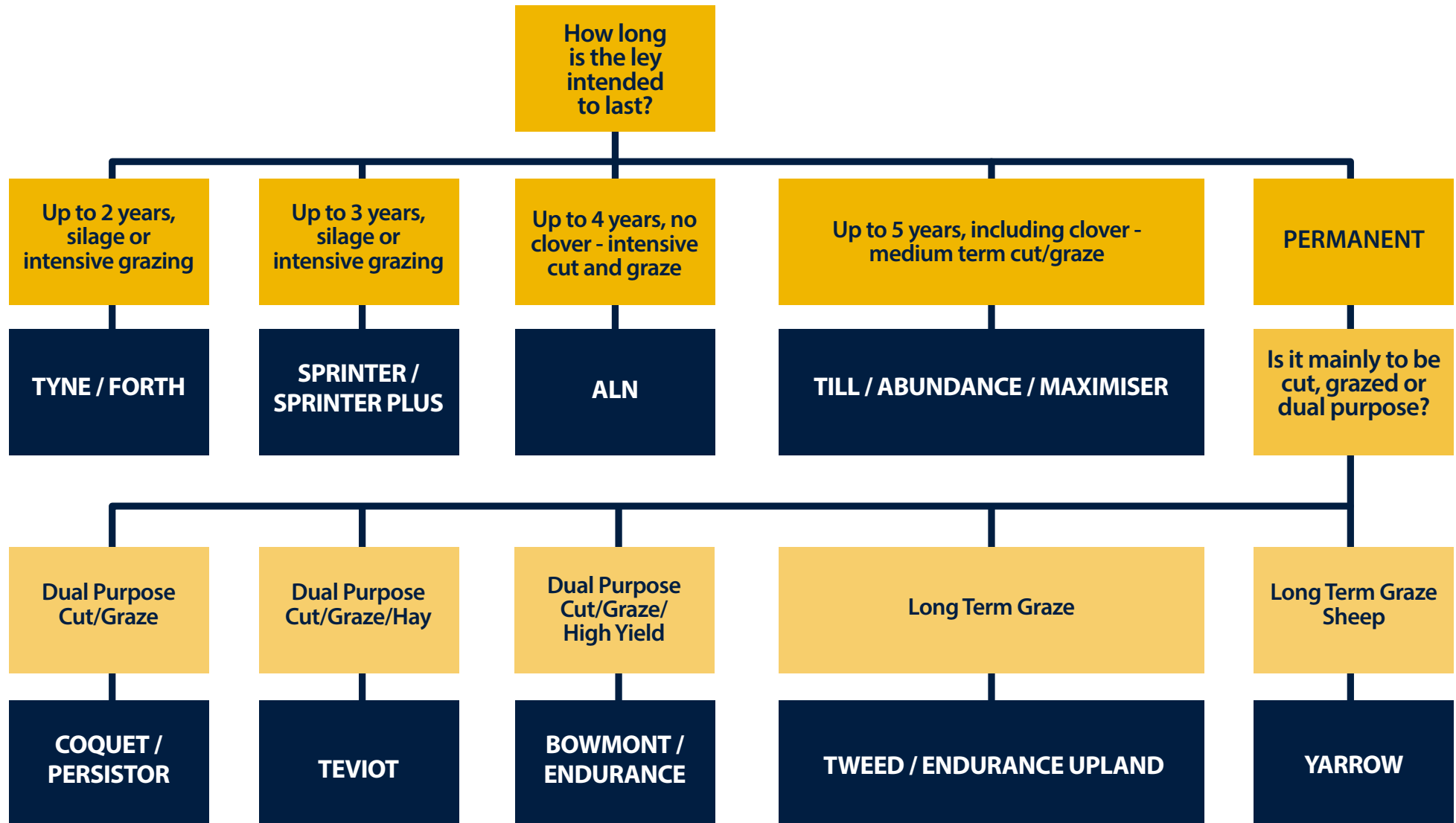
Violin is a large leaved variety that has excellent persistency with hard and light defoliation, maintaining its yield in the third year. Its ground cover is also well above average.

RED CLOVER

Global (Large Leaf) Freudenberger

Global is a large leaved variety and its robust qualities mean that it can be cropped for two to three years. It is also very healthy and rich in protein.

DURABILITY



SHORT TERM MIXTURES

Tyne

Up to two years, silage or intensive grazing

This mixture includes:

Meribel	Diploid	Italian Ryegrass
Barimax	Tetraploid	Italian Ryegrass

Recommended sowing rate:

20-30 kgs/ha (8-12 kgs/acre)

Features

- Designed for high production up to three cuts of silage or intensive grazing.
- Early spring growth.
- Quick to establish so can be used as a catchcrop.

Benefits

- Very responsive to fertiliser nitrogen.
- Will produce high yields of good D-value silage.

Management

- Cut at or about five days after ear emergence (mid to late May) for optimum D-value. Take second cut four to five weeks later to avoid too much stem. A third cut is feasible, although quantity and quality may be less.

Additional Points

- Use approximately half the stated sowing rate and use as catchcrop sowing after an early harvest for ploughing the following spring.
- Red clover can be included to increase overall feed value; the weight of grass may be reduced in proportion.
- Will not last more than two years.
- By introducing a few kilos of hybrid and/or mid or late perennial tetraploid ryegrass (up to half the weight) and reduce the weight of Italian in proportion, you will be able to use this mixture for grazing.

Forth

Up to two years, silage or intensive grazing

This mixture includes:

Global		Red Clover
Astoncrusader	Tetraploid	Hybrid Ryegrass
Meribel	Diploid	Italian Ryegrass
Nifty	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass

Recommended sowing rate:

30 - 37 kgs/ha (12 - 15 kgs/acre)

Tetraploid content: 25.00%

Average Heading Date:

May 1st + 35 days

Features

- Designed for high production using rich yielding IRG and Hybrid in mixture with red clover.
- If managed correctly, it should give three cuts of quality silage in a season.

Benefits

- Reduces reliance on fertiliser by utilising red clover N-fixing ability.
- Useful break crop in arable rotation.
- High protein silage.

Management

- Careful grazing management required because of red clover.
- Ensure correct cutting height to maintain crown root of red clover.



Sprinter & Sprinter Plus

Up to three years, silage or intensive grazing

This mixture includes:

Gosford	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Astoncrusader	Tetraploid	Hybrid Ryegrass
Meribel	Diploid	Italian Ryegrass
Lofa		Hybrid Fescue

Recommended sowing rate:

35 kgs/ha (14 kgs/acre)

Tetraploid content: 20.00%

Features

- High tetraploid content.
- Designed for high production up to three cuts of silage or intensive grazing.

Benefits

- Provides considerable autumn grazing potential.
- A flexible mixture; potential for mixed management.
- High yielding and quick recovery.

Management

- First cut in mid-May.
- Sprinter Plus mixture created with addition of 10.00% Global red clover and reduction of 10.00% Gosford IPR.
- With Sprinter Plus, careful grazing management required because of red clover.
- With Sprinter Plus, ensure correct cutting height to maintain crown root of red clover.

MEDIUM TERM MIXTURES



A Smellie, Peebles

Aln

Up to four years intensive cut and graze

This mixture includes:

Astoncrusader	Tetraploid	Hybrid Ryegrass
Toddington	Diploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Seagoe	Tetraploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Evocative	Diploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Meribel	Diploid	Italian Ryegrass
Pensel	Tetraploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass

Recommended sowing rate:

25 - 35 kgs/ha (10 - 14 kgs/acre)

Tetraploid content: 50.00%

Average Heading Date:

1st May + 39 days

Mixture breakdown

Late Perennial Ryegrass	36.00%
Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	29.00%
Hybrid Ryegrass	21.00%
Italian Ryegrass	14.00%

Features

- A high production quality mixture which can be cut up to three times in a season using varieties that combine high yield and good D-value.
- Can also be used as a mixture for early and late grazing with silage cut.

Benefits

- Italian and hybrid ryegrasses ensure early spring growth combined with a high yield.
- Good spread of tetraploids and diploids give winter hardiness and a tighter sward.
- Highly palatable grass is ensured with good ground cover.
- Will be persistent for three to four years.

Management

- Cut at or around first ear emergence followed by second and perhaps a third.
- Can be grazed intensively all season.
- Intensive management is essential to avoid the sward going stemmy; high input = high output.

Additional points

- Useful for sowing as a shorter term rotational grass.
- Red clover can be included.

Till

Up to five years cut and graze

This mixture includes:

Evocative	Diploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Twymax	Tetraploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Toddington	Diploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Seagoe	Tetraploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Fintona	Tetraploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Pensel	Tetraploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Abergreen	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Nifty	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
AstonCrusader	Tetraploid	Hybrid Ryegrass
Merwi	Medium Leaf	White Clover
Iona	Small Leaf	White Clover

Recommended sowing rate:

30 - 35 kgs/ha (12 - 14 kgs/acre)

Tetraploid content: 49.00%

Average Heading Date:

1st May + 40 days

Mixture breakdown

Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	43.00%
Late Perennial Ryegrass	42.50%
White Clover	7.50%
Hybrid Ryegrass	7.00%

Features

- Designed as dual-purpose ley for sowing as a rotational mixture.
- Will perform under intensive or extensive management systems.

Benefits

- Can be pushed to give a high yield of digestible silage or grazing.
- Maintains good ground cover through the inclusion of a diploid ryegrass.
- Tetraploids ensure winter hardiness and palatability.

Management

- Responds to a high input of nitrogen and can be silaged at the end of May or early June to achieve best quality at first cut, going on to produce a high yielding second cut or late season grazing.

Additional points

- Timothy can be added if this mixture is required for hay or sheep grazing in less intensive management situations.
- If establishment year bulk is required in a direct reseed situation, the hybrid content could be increased or Italian ryegrass could be added.

Abundance

Up to four years cut and graze

This mixture includes:

Evocative	Diploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Pensel	Tetraploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Gosford	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Twymax	Tetraploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Boyne	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Comer		Timothy
Merwi	Medium Leaf	White Clover
Iona	Small Leaf	White Clover
Violin	Large Leaf	White Clover

Recommended sowing rate:

35 kgs/ha (14 kgs/acre)

Tetraploid content: 35.71%

Mixture breakdown

Late Perennial Ryegrass	35.71%
Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	50.00%
White Clover	8.93%
Timothy	5.36%

Features

- Designed to suit the early silage producer wanting three or more quality cuts each year.

Benefits

- High tetraploid content means higher sugar levels aiding fermentation and stock intake.
- Aftermath grazing is highly palatable.
- Excellent D-value.

Management

- Consistent and reliable quality for first cutting in the third week of May.

Additional points

- Timothy gives longer growing period.
- Extended grazing period due to varietal selection.

Maximiser

Up to five years cut and graze

This mixture includes:

Pensel	Tetraploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Gosford	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Evocative	Diploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Twymax	Tetraploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Abergain	Tetraploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Boyne	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Merwi	Medium Leaf	White Clover
Iona	Small Leaf	White Clover
Violin	Large Leaf	White Clover

Recommended sowing rate:

35 kgs/ha (14 kgs/acre)

Tetraploid content: 48.21%

Mixture breakdown

Late Perennial Ryegrass	35.72%
Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	55.35%
White Clover	8.93%

Features

- High yielding and reliable varieties.

Benefits

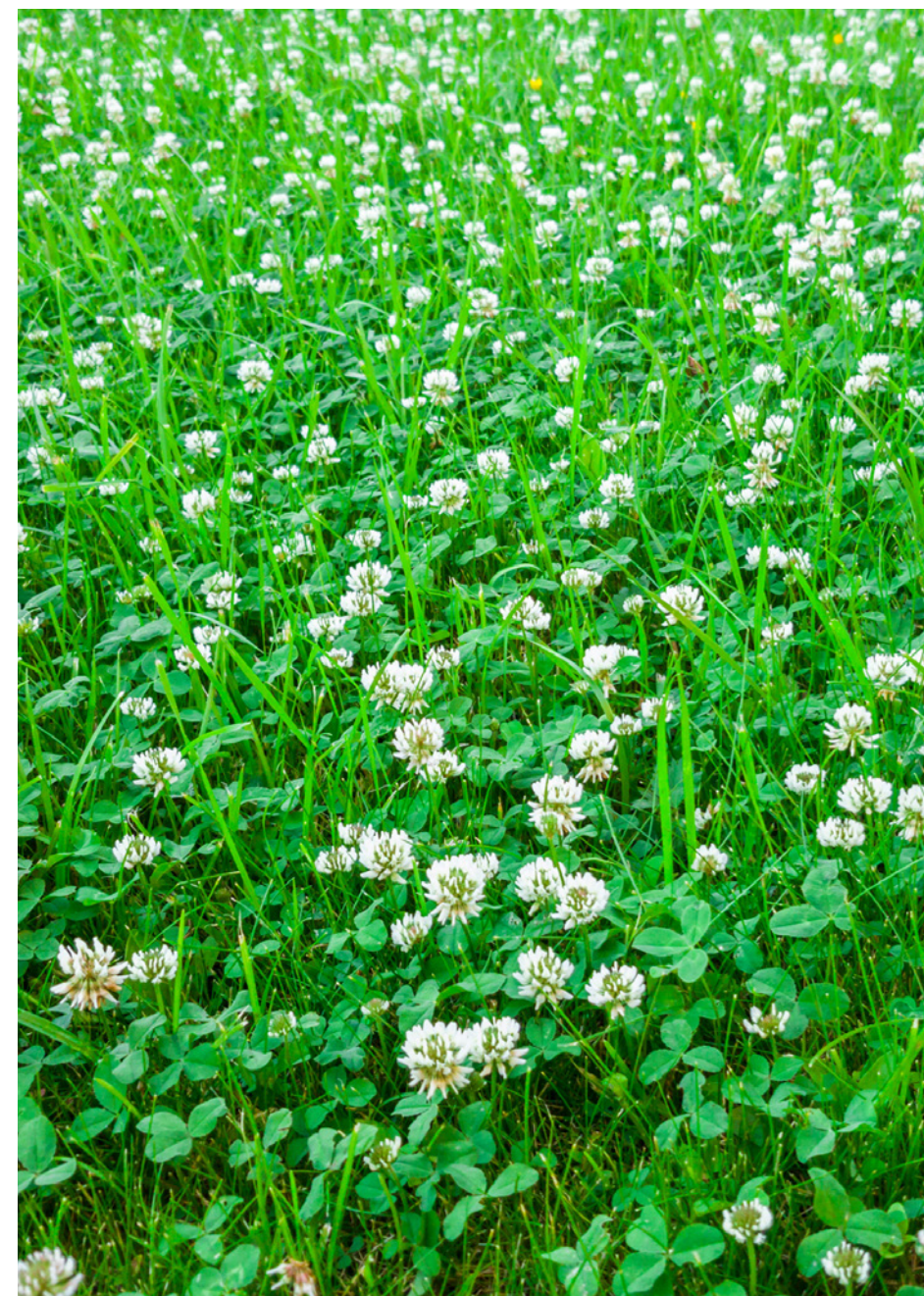
- A truly consistent performer all year.
- Higher sugar levels in tetraploids encourage stock to eat more because of improved palatability.
- High D-value varieties.
- Excellent pasture type grasses.

Management

- This mixture will provide all-season growth.

Additional points

- Clover remains the best natural source of vitamins and trace elements and improves productivity.



LONG TERM MIXTURES



Coquet

Long-term dual purpose with early bite

This mixture includes:

Genesis	Diploid	Early Perennial Ryegrass
Toddington	Diploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Abergain	Tetraploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Boyne	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Seagoe	Tetraploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Nifty	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Twymax	Tetraploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Comer		Timothy
Pensel	Tetraploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Merwi	Medium Leaf	White Clover
Crusader	Medium Leaf	White Clover
Iona	Small Leaf	White Clover

Recommended sowing rate:

30 - 35 kgs/ha (12 - 14 kgs/acre)

Tetraploid content: 35.00%

Average Heading Date:

1st May + 42 days

Mixture breakdown

Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	35.00%
Late Perennial Ryegrass	35.00%
Early Perennial Ryegrass	15.00%
Timothy	7.50%
White Clover	7.50%

Features

- A traditional dual-purpose mixture using a spread of early, mid and late ryegrasses to give early spring growth followed by occasional cutting or season-long grazing (very flexible).

- Ideal for mixed farms requiring a long-term dual-purpose mixture with early bite and is especially useful when grass is required for lambing ewes.
- Winter hardy tetraploids are included.

Benefits

- Season-long growth with good ground cover and winter hardiness.
- Well suited to making hay because of the inclusion of Timothy.

Management

- Graze with sheep in early spring to avoid early heading ryegrasses going too quickly.
- Can also be shut off late to take a single cut of silage after the early grazing around lambing time.

Additional points

- Hybrid or Italian ryegrass can be added if required.
- Cocksfoot can be added at the customer's request if in a drought situation, although care must be taken with cocksfoot as it can become dominant if under-managed.

Persistor

Long term dual purpose with early bite

This mixture includes:

Pensel	Tetraploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Evocative	Diploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Gosford	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Twymax	Tetraploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Abergain	Tetraploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Astoncrusader	Tetraploid	Hybrid Ryegrass
Boyne	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Comer		Timothy
Merwi	Medium Leaf	White Clover
Iona	Small Leaf	White Clover
Violin	Large Leaf	White Clover

Recommended sowing rate:

35 kgs/ha (14 kgs/acre)

Tetraploid content: 50.00%

Mixture breakdown

Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	42.86%
Late Perennial Ryegrass	35.72%
White Clover	8.93%
Hybrid Ryegrass	7.14%
Timothy	5.36%

Features

- Designed to give the grassland farmer a high performance with inclusion of Timothy.
- Early growth and good aftermath grazing.

Benefits

- Combined with the high sugar grasses and tetraploids, it will produce high levels of excellent forage for all categories of stock.
- Fast recovery from all grasses gives added yield.

Management

- Wide spread of grasses gives all-season growth.

Additional points

- Timothy gives early bite and aftermath grazing.
- Hybrid inclusion gives early production and higher grass yields.

Teviot

Dual purpose mixture

This mixture includes:

Boyne	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Seagoe	Tetraploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Evocative	Diploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Nashota	Tetraploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Toddington	Diploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Ballintoy	Tetraploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Nifty	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Aberclyde	Tetraploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Gosford	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Comer		Timothy
Iona	Small Leaf	White Clover
Buddy	Medium Leaf	White Clover
Merwi	Medium Leaf	White Clover

Recommended sowing rate:

35 - 40 kgs/ha (14 - 16 kgs/acre)

Tetraploid content: 35.00%

Average Heading Date:

1st May + 46 days

Mixture breakdown

Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	49.00%
Late Perennial Ryegrass	38.00%
Timothy	7.00%
White Clover	6.00%

Features

- A traditional dual-purpose mixture for cutting or grazing under a low input mixed farm system.

- Provides a good cut of silage/hay followed by aftermath grazing.
- Combines tetraploid and diploid first choice to give yield, quality and ground cover.

Benefits

- Long seasonal growth.
- Persistent, tight sward to maintain yield and to help avoid poaching.

Management

- Hard sheep grazing may cause Timothy to be less persistent.
- If it's cut every year, Timothy can dominate.
- Best suited to cattle and sheep grazing management with the occasional cut.

Additional points

- Italian or hybrid ryegrass can be added if required to provide production in the establishment year.

Bowmont

Dual purpose long term cut and graze

This mixture includes:

Evocative	Diploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Twymax	Tetraploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Fintona	Tetraploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Nifty	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Seagoe	Tetraploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Gosford	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Nashota	Tetraploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Aberclyde	Tetraploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Boyne	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Buddy	Medium Leaf	White Clover
Merwi	Medium Leaf	White Clover
Alice	Large Leaf	White Clover

Recommended sowing rate:

35 - 40 kgs/ha (14 - 16 kgs/acre)

Tetraploid content: 52.00%

Average Heading Date:

1st May + 44 days

Mixture breakdown

Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	55.50%
Late Perennial Ryegrass	37.00%
White Clover	7.50%

Features

- Our highest yielding long-term mixture for cutting and grazing.
- Combines a good spread of first choice varieties to give spring grazing followed by a silage cut.
- Can be cut again or the aftermath used for grazing.
- Combines tetraploid and first choice diploid to

give yield, quality and ground cover with winter hardiness – varieties proven to be persistent, giving a tight sward especially under sheep grazing management.

Benefits

- The mixture is extremely flexible and will respond well in high or low input systems.
- Responsive to high yield inputs of nitrogen so can be used under a more intensive situation for maximum yields.
- High D-value grasses for quality silage.

Management

- For maximum yield, start growth with an early application of nitrogen followed by the balance when the field is shut up. If taking two cuts, do the first cut at or around mid-heading and the second cut five to six weeks later.

Additional Points

- Italian or hybrid ryegrasses can be added for establishment year bulk.
- Includes large-leaved white clover Alice, which is most suited to the cutting regime.

Endurance

Dual purpose long term cut and graze

This mixture includes:

Nashota	Tetraploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Nifty	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Evocative	Diploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Ballintoy	Tetraploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Toddington	Diploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Twymax	Tetraploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Abergain	Tetraploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
AberMagic	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Comer		Timothy
Merwi	Medium Leaf	White Clover
Iona	Small Leaf	White Clover
Violin	Large Leaf	White Clover

Recommended sowing rate:

35 kgs/ha (14 kgs/acre)

Tetraploid content: 42.86%

Mixture breakdown

Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	21.42%
Late Perennial Ryegrass	64.29%
White Clover	8.93%
Timothy	5.36%

Features

- Specifically designed for long term cutting and grazing.
- Higher sugar levels in tetraploids.

Benefits

- Improved palatability due to high sugar levels encourages stock to eat more.
- Clover remains the best source of vitamins and trace elements and improves productivity.
- Timothy gives high yields in hay and silage crops.
- Excellent D-value grasses.

Management

- Wide growth period

Tweed

Permanent Pasture long term grazing

This mixture includes:

Toddington	Diploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Boyne	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Twymax	Tetraploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Nifty	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Gosford	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Aberzeus	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Seagoe	Tetraploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Abermagic	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Iona	Small Leaf	White Clover
Evocative	Diploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Merwi	Medium Leaf	White Clover
Violin	Large Leaf	White Clover

Recommended sowing rate:

30 - 35 kgs/ha (12 - 14 kgs/acre)

Tetraploid content: 19.00%

Average Heading Date:

1st May + 41 days

Mixture breakdown

Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	55.00%
Late Perennial Ryegrass	38.00%
White Clover	7.00%

Features

- A ley designed for mixed grazing in an intensive or extensive management system.
- Can be cut occasionally if required.
- Excellent ground cover providing a very tight sward.

Benefits

- Maximum grazing yield throughout producing high quality palatable grass all season.
- In a low input situation, this mixture provides sustained grazing throughout the season.
- Extremely winter hardy and persistent producing high yields over many years.

Management

- In high input situations, maximum yield can be attained by regular applications of nitrogen during the growing season.

Additional Points

- Hybrid or Italian ryegrass can be added if required to enhance yield during the early establishment years, especially if the initial year is managed as a cut.
- In a cattle grazing situation, MSP 'Cutting' Clover Blend should be used.

Endurance Upland

Dual purpose long term cut and graze

This mixture includes:

Evocative	Diploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Pensel	Tetraploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Boyne	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Abermagic	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Nashota	Tetraploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Comer		Timothy
Donata		Cocksfoot
Lofa		Hybrid Fescue
Merwi	Medium Leaf	White Clover
Iona	Small Leaf	White Clover
Violin	Large Leaf	White Clover
Maxima		Red Fescue

Recommended sowing rate:

35 kgs/ha (14 kgs/acre)

Tetraploid content: 29.99%

Mixture breakdown

Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	46.66%
Late Perennial Ryegrass	31.67%
White Clover	8.33%
Timothy	5.00%
Cocksfoot	3.34%
Hybrid Fescue	3.34%
Red Fescue	1.66%

Features

- Long term mixture for both cattle and sheep which will last more than 10 years.
- Higher sugar levels in tetraploids.

Benefits

- Improved palatability due to high sugar levels encourages stock to eat more.
- Clover remains the best source of vitamins and trace elements and improves productivity.
- Higher inclusion rate of an excellent clover blend will give higher daily liveweight gain.
- Excellent D-value grasses.

Management

- Wide growth period.
- Timothy will give early growth and extended grazing all year round

Additional Points

- Option for Endurance with Red Clover, containing 13.34% of the Global variety.

Yarrow

Permanent pasture long term grazing

This mixture includes:

Toddington	Diploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Evocative	Diploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Nifty	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Abergain	Tetraploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Seagoe	Tetraploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Boyne	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Fintona	Tetraploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Pensel	Tetraploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Nifty	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Merwi	Medium Leaf	White Clover
Buddy	Medium Leaf	White Clover
Iona	Small Leaf	White Clover

Recommended sowing rate:

35-40 kgs/ha (14-16 kgs/acre)

Tetraploid content: 30.00%

Average Heading Date:

1st May + 43 days

Mixture breakdown

Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	45.00%
Late Perennial Ryegrass	47.00%
White Clover	8.00%

Features

- A mix designed for predominantly sheep grazing due to high clover inclusion.
- More suited to a low input system with a heavy reliance on clover.
- Especially suited to late grazing of lambs, with the clover enhancing live weight gain.

Benefits

- Palatable season long growth.
- Persists well with frequent defoliation management (eg. sheep grazing).
- Less use of fertiliser nitrogen.

Management

- Grazes at regular intervals and grows well into autumn.

Additional Points

- Not suited where large applications of nitrogen are planned.
- If the clover was replaced with MSP 'Cutting' Clover Blend, this mixture would produce a medium-term intensive cutting ley suitable for one or two cuts per year.

MSP Herb Ley

Permanent pasture long term grazing

This mixture includes:

Seagoe	Tetraploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Donata		Cocksfoot
Boyne	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Lofa		Hybrid Fescue
Comer		Timothy
Herb Blend		Herb
Barelite		Tall Fescue
Merwi	Medium Leaf	White Clover
Iona	Small Leaf	White Clover
Violin	Large Leaf	White Clover
Dakisha		Meadow Fescue

Recommended sowing rate:

35 kgs/ha (14 kgs/acre)

Tetraploid content: 16.25%

Features

- All-round mixture suitable for cattle and sheep, while also providing food and habitat for insects, including crop pollinators.

Benefits

- Diverse range of varieties has shown a reduction in the amount of fertiliser needing to be applied.
- Our research has shown that lambs grazing this kind of mixture are healthier and have a better daily liveweight gain over a shorter period.
- Increased soil health.

Additional Points

- An MSP Herb Ley sown in spring 2019 at 14 kgs/acre grazed six ewes in lamb with triplets. It was top-dressed with 50kgs of 20:10:10. The ewes lambed on field grazed nine ewes per acre with twins grass-only fed. In summer, it was top-dressed with another 50kgs of 20:10:10. The lambs were spained and fattened with grass over summer and autumn before the ewes went back to the tup.



MSP Diamond

Permanent pasture long term grazing

This mixture includes:

Abergain	Tetraploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Abergreen	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Ballintoy	Tetraploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Boyne	Diploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Comer		Timothy
Fintona	Tetraploid	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
Global		Red Clover
Iona	Small Leaf	White Clover
Toddington	Diploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Violin	Large Leaf	White Clover

Recommended sowing rate:
15kgs/acre

Tetraploid content: 38.33%

Mixture breakdown

Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	17.00%
Late Perennial Ryegrass	21.33%
White Clover	13.39%
Red Clover	8.30%
Timothy	3.33%

Features

- High grazing performance.
- High protein silage.
- Quality aftermath grazing.

Benefits

- Lower bagged Nitrogen requirement.
- High sugar grasses.
- Contains both white & red clover.

Additional Points

- Longer term grass mixture that now provides added quality over the early years.



MSP Leisure

Amenity Mixture

This mixture includes:

Toddington	Diploid	Late Perennial Ryegrass
Maxima		Creeping Red Fescue

Recommended sowing rate:
25 kg/acre 65 kg/Ha

Features

- Extreme sward density and good wear tolerance.
- Designed to be low maintenance, so better than a field-type mixture.
- Much lower sowing rate than an amenity type mixture.

Benefits

- Ideal for caravan parks, solar farms, riverbanks, verges, fruit farms and orchards.
- Has an attractive appearance with a good dark green colour.

Additional Points

- This mixture will NOT provide a lawn finish.
- Although the sowing rate is higher than agricultural mixtures it is considerably less than the rate required by a true amenity mixture.



COVER CROPS

12 Reasons Why Farmers Should Grow Cover Crops

Farmers sow cover crops for various reasons, as they provide numerous benefits to both the soil and the overall farming ecosystem. Here are some key reasons why farmers choose to sow cover crops:

Soil Conservation

Cover crops help prevent soil erosion by protecting the soil surface from wind and water erosion. The plant roots anchor the soil, reducing the risk of nutrient run-off and preserving the topsoil.

Weed Suppression

Cover crops can outcompete and suppress weeds. Their dense canopy shades the soil, making it difficult for weeds to establish and grow.

Nutrient Management

Certain cover crops, such as legumes, have the ability to fix nitrogen. This could reduce the need for synthetic nitrogen fertilisers and improves overall soil fertility.

Moisture Retention

Cover crops help improve water retention in the soil. Their root systems create channels for water to penetrate, and the plant residues on the soil surface act as a mulch, reducing evaporation and maintaining soil moisture levels.

Disease and Pest Management

Some cover crops release natural compounds that can suppress certain soilborne diseases and pests, acting as a form of biological control.

Biodiversity

Cover crops contribute to overall farm biodiversity by providing habitat and food sources for beneficial insects and microorganisms. This can enhance the natural balance within the agricultural ecosystem.

Improved Soil Structure

The root systems of cover crops improve soil structure by promoting aggregation. This enhances aeration, drainage, and the overall tilth of the soil.

Reduced Soil Compaction

Deep-rooted cover crops can help alleviate soil compaction, breaking up compacted layers and improving the movement of air, water, and nutrients through the soil.

Seasonal Land Use

Cover crops can be planted during periods when the main cash crops are not actively growing, providing continuous coverage on the field and preventing bare soil exposure.

Erosion Control

By protecting the soil surface, cover crops play a crucial role in preventing erosion caused by wind and water, especially on sloping terrain.

Carbon Sequestration

Cover crops contribute to carbon sequestration as they capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in the soil organic matter.

Livestock Forage

Some cover crops can also be used as forage for livestock, providing an additional income source for farmers.



Scan the QR code to visit our website and learn more about our cover crop offering



GAME COVER

Lothian Estates, Jedburgh

With our ever changing countryside, sporting activities are becoming now more than ever, an important part of the rural economy. A successfully run shoot is not only profitable but also has an impact on the landscape and environment. These reasons make the game cover conservation “seed order” an ever more important decision.

We at McCreath Simpson & Prentice understand the importance of the game cover order to the end user and apply our high standards and service for this part of our business.

There is an extensive range of game cover and conservation crops through MSP which gives customers the opportunity to tailor any mixes or straights to suit specific individual needs, as local climate and site restrictions can influence the choice of your crop for shoot requirements.

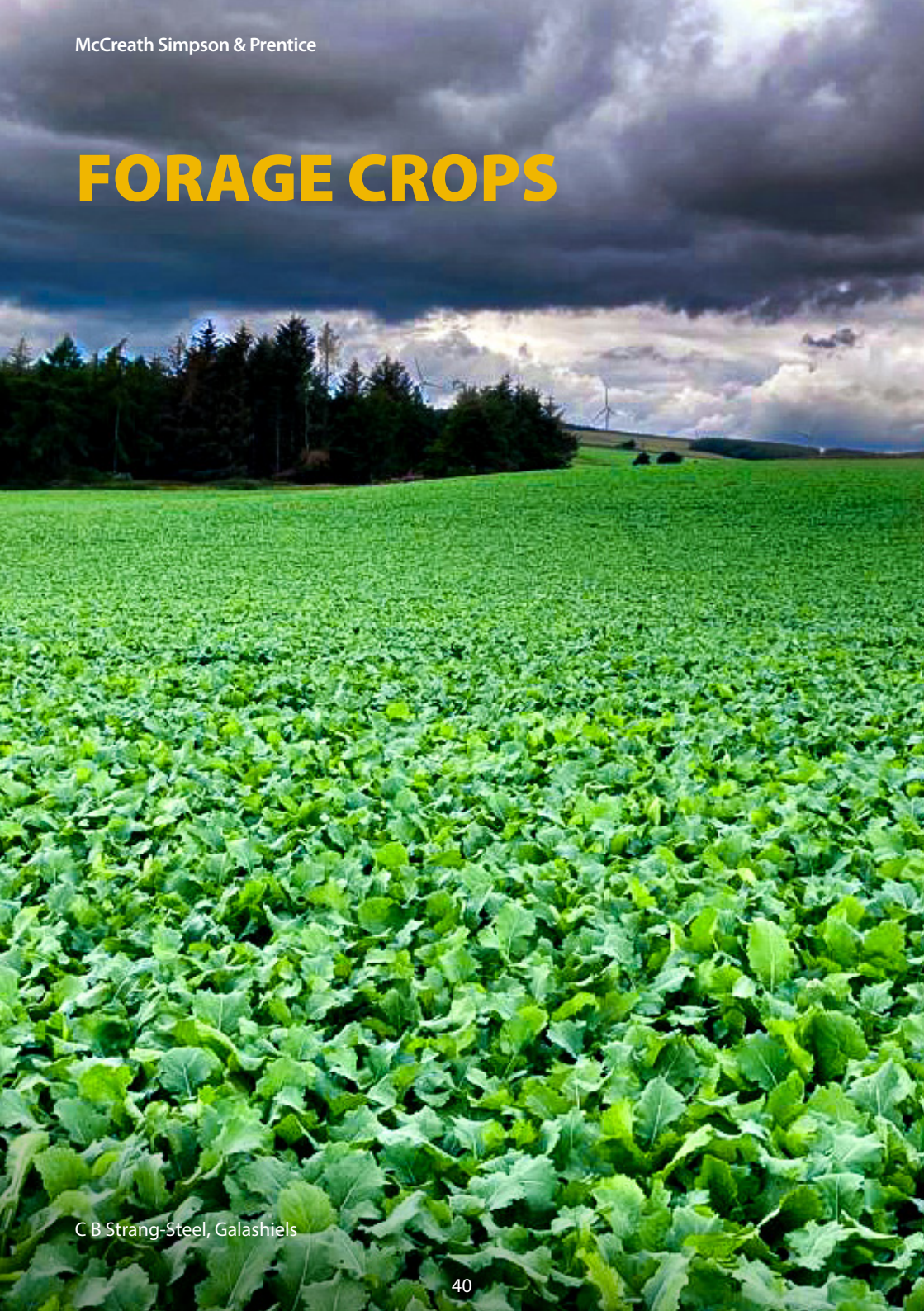
It is very important to respect your game cover. Far too often we see game cover failing its early stages simply because of poor management and lack of attention. To minimise the risk of a failed crop, we would propose to take soil samples, to check pH, potash and phosphate and any fertiliser recommendations will be based on these results.

Chemicals can also play a major part to this crops success and with our BASIS qualified representatives on hand to make any chemical plans and fertiliser recommendations, this puts MSP in a unique position to be able to offer a complete package and back up service for all gamecover crops.

Increasing amounts of growers are using cover crops in rotation not only for EFA purposes. Cover crops can be used to help with soil fertility and structure, retain moisture and a cultural control strategy for grassweed control. MSP have a full range of options to suit every system.

A SUCCESSFULLY RUN SHOOT IS NOT ONLY PROFITABLE BUT ALSO HAS AN IMPACT ON THE LANDSCAPE AND ENVIRONMENT.

FORAGE CROPS



C B Strang-Steel, Galashiels

Due to farmers' desire to produce more homegrown forage and reduce concentrate requirement when rearing livestock, selecting and managing the correct root or forage crop is very important, whether as a main crop or catch crop.

At McCreath Simpson & Prentice, we are able to supply all the main root and forage crop seeds either as straights or in a mixture to produce the yield and quality required.

Forage crops serve as a rich source of essential nutrients like proteins and fibres, promoting the overall health and productivity of grazing animals, which not only enhance the quality of the animal's diet, but also support efficient weight gain and milk production.

Moreover, forage crops contribute to soil health and fertility. Their extensive root systems help prevent soil erosion,

enhance water retention, and promote microbial activity, thereby improving overall soil structure. This aids sustainable farming practices and long-term agricultural productivity.

Forage crops also offer economic benefits for farmers. Livestock raised on high-quality forage tend to require fewer supplements, reducing the overall cost of feed. Additionally, diversifying crops with forage can improve farm resilience, providing alternative revenue streams and mitigating risks associated with fluctuations in market demand for other crops.





Our Forage Crop Offering

Stubble Turnips

Turnips are grown in most areas of the UK as a highly digestible catch crop. Stubble turnips have amazing initial growth capacity and produce crops within 9-12 weeks from sowing.

Early sowing takes place in April and produces heavy crops for finishing lambs weaned off grass from late June onwards. They can be sown throughout the summer until late August for feeding through until January. Stubble turnips are very cost effective and work really well in our forage crop mixtures.

Swedes

Swedes are ideally suited to cooler, wetter parts of the UK and are far superior to turnips for frost hardiness and keeping quality.

Sowing of swedes should take place from early April until mid-June and they can be grazed in situ or harvested. Due to their growing pattern, swedes are also not as vulnerable to extreme weather, whereas other brassica forage crops can be lost to high snow fall or high winds.

Kale

Kale is the highest yielding brassica and, with it being quite winter-hardy, it can provide a very useful winter forage contribution.

Kale is high in protein and is usually grazed between September and March, with best results come from careful crop husbandry.

Forage/Hybrid Rape

Forage and/or hybrid rape is the market-leading forage option, producing quick-growing green forage ideal for catch cropping. It can be sown between April to August to provide forage 12 weeks later.

Growers should begin by looking into the utilising window and work back to calculate the sowing period for best results. Forage/hybrid rape is the most reliable of all forage crop options with arguably least input costs. It can be used as a good nurse crop for establishing a new grass ley but really excels as a pioneer crop.



Photo: Mr Renwick admiring his forage crop mixture at Howford Farm near Innerleithen in the Scottish Borders. This particular field is 480ft above sea level.

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From here, one of our team will be in touch to assist you.



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