

**Openfield™**



Seed, fertiliser, grain, storage.

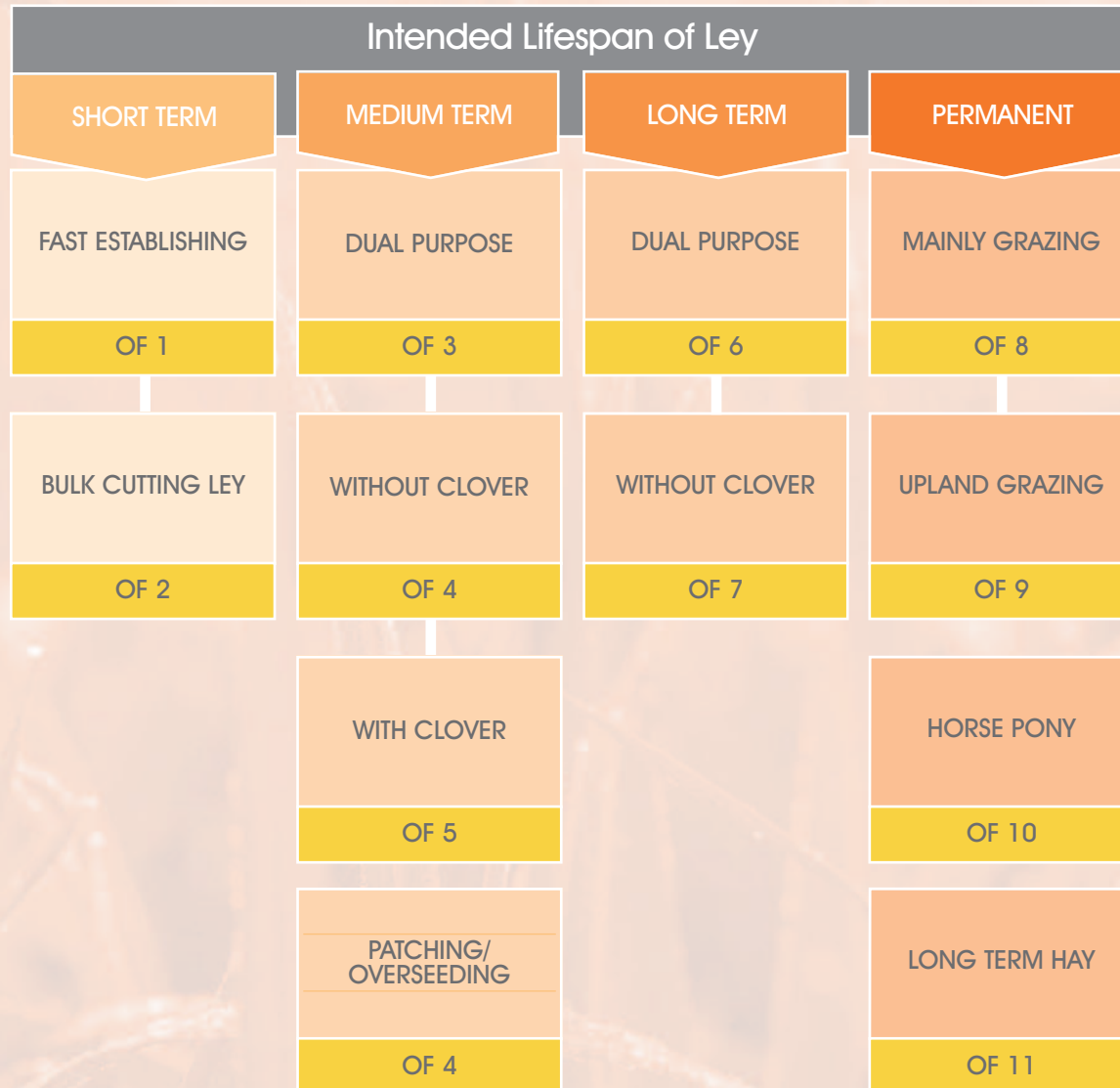
# Grass Seed 2025

**Tel: 01476 862755**





# GRASS SEED SELECTION FLOW CHART





# SEED BED PREPARATION

To get the best from your new grass seed it is well worth spending time taking soil samples to verify the pH and nutrient levels. Any problems that are highlighted should be addressed as early as possible to create the optimum growing conditions for the newly sown grass. Ideally a pH of 6.5 for mineral soils and around 5.6 for organic should allow optimum nutrient availability.

Traditionally, grass seedbeds have been fine, firm, level and well consolidated. Too soft and the seed can go in too deep. Too hard and species such as Ryegrass which likes to be buried, will struggle. 0.5 cm to 1 cm deep is the optimum depth, Clovers and Timothy prefer to be surface sown.

The aim is for maximum ground cover to help with weed suppression and moisture retention. Once sown, rolling the field with a Cambridge or Flat roller will improve the soil to seed contact which is critical for germination and establishment. The young seedlings are particularly vulnerable to attack from pests so need to be monitored and appropriate action taken if necessary, to prevent any loss.

## Over Seeding

Over Seeding is a way of improving damaged, tired pasture, or patching recent sowings that haven't taken properly. It is relatively cheap, quick and of lower risk than ploughing, whilst retaining the existing grass. The best results come from sowing Tetraploid Ryegrasses that are vigorous enough to get a good footing, but White Clovers also give good results if the soil is warm, ideally 7 degrees Celsius, and moist at sowing.

Over Seeding is best avoided during May/June due to the competition from the existing sward. A light tillth, created by chain harrows or a comb harrow, is necessary for the seed to either be broadcasted or shallow drilled by a grass drill.

Rolling follows with either type of roller, or alternatively sheep can be used to "tread" the seed in. Once the seedlings start to grow the sheep should be removed to avoid damaging young shoots and the pasture rested. If the pasture is dry, cattle can be substituted as they don't graze as short as sheep. Fertiliser applications should be avoided until the new crop is well established.





# TOP QUALITY GRASS LEYS

## OF 1 ONE YEAR LEY

One-year high yielding Ley, for a large first cut of silage, hay or haylage.

7.0kg Pollanum	Westerwold
3.5kg Shakira	Italian (Dip)
3.5kg Arman	Italian (Tet)

Total Per Acre 14.00kg

(MIXES MAY CHANGE  
WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE)

## OF 2 TWO YEAR ITALIAN

Two-year all Italian Ley, ideal break crop producing up to four high yielding cuts of quality silage. Will also make excellent hard horse hay.

4.0kg Shakira	Italian (Dip)
4.0kg Sendero	Italian (Dip)
6.0kg Arman	Italian (Tet)

Total Per Acre 14 kg

## OF 3 HAYLAGE/SILAGE

Three to four-year ley for top quality haylage, silage and hay.

Contains 50% Diploids to reduce wilting time.

3.5kg Shakira	Italian (Dip)
3.5kg Sendero	Italian (Dip)
7.0kg Pirol	Hybrid (Dip)

Total Per Acre 14 kg

## OF 4 HYBRID SILAGE

### Our Top Seller

Four-year silage, will produce up to four cuts of high yielding excellent quality silage with late season grazing and will produce a large haylage crop.

5.0kg Kirial	Hybrid (Tet)
5.0kg Cordial	Hybrid (Tet)
4.0kg Aston Crusader	Hybrid (Tet)

Total Per Acre 14 kg





# TOP QUALITY GRASS LEYS

## OF 5 RED CLOVER

Three year intensive high protein silage ley. Italian version available.

2.0kg Diplomat	Red Clover
1.0kg Rozeta	Red Clover
4.5kg Kirial	Hybrid (Tet)
4.5kg AstonCrusader	Hybrid (Tet)

Total Per Acre 12 kg

## OF 6 CUT & GRAZE

Five year plus dual-purpose ley, suitable for Dairy, Beef and Sheep. Excellent all-rounder with clover.

2.0kg Kirial	Hybrid (Tet)
2.5kg AstonVision	Int (Tet)
2.0kg Galgorm	Int (Dip)
2.5kg Gleneagle	Late (Dip)
2.0kg Bijou	Late (Tet)
2.0kg Dundrod	Late (Dip)
0.5kg Liflex	White Clover M
0.5kg Aberswan	White Clover M

Total Per Acre 14 kg

## OF 7 SILAGE

Proven track record to produce excellent quality silage and grazing.

3.0kg AstonVision	Int (Tet)
2.0kg Galgorm	Int (Dip)
3.0kg Seagoe	Int (Tet)
2.0kg Aberzeus	Int (Dip)
2.0kg Gleneagle	Late (Dip)
2.0kg Bijou	Late (Tet)

Total Per Acre 14 kg

## OF 8 QUALITY GRAZE

Long term intensive grazing ley producing a dense highly palatable sward. Will also make a good quality late spring silage.

2.0kg Gusto	Int (Dip)
2.0kg AstonVision	Int (Tet)
2.0kg Goldwell	Int (Dip)
2.0kg Dundrod	Late (Dip)
2.0kg Gleneagle	Late (Dip)
2.0kg Bijou	Late (Tet)
2.0kg AberBann	Late (Dip)

Total Per Acre 14 kg

(MIXES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE)





# TOP QUALITY GRASS LEYS



## OF 9 PERMANENT LEY

Long term grazing ley, will also make late season silage or hay. Suitable for upland situations where growing conditions are more challenging.

2.0kg Dundrod	Late (Dip)
2.0kg Gusto	Int (Dip)
2.0kg Seagoe	Int (Tet)
2.0kg Aberbann	Late (Dip)
2.0kg AstonKing	Late (Dip)
2.0kg Gleneagle	Late (Dip)
1.0kg Comer	Timothy
0.5kg Liflex	White Clover M
0.5kg AberSwan	White Clover M

Total Per Acre 14 kg

## OF 10 HORSE PADDOCK

Horses graze differently to ruminants and are notorious at destroying pastures if not mixed grazed. Horses nibble down below the growing point damaging the plant, something cattle don't do. The bare patches this creates are soon invaded by weeds such as Ragwort, Chickweed, Creeping Buttercup and weed grasses like Annual Meadow Grass which are unpalatable.

Designed specifically for grazing horses, OF 10 can produce a nutritious, palatable sward with early, mid and late season growth to keep both your horse and your pasture in a healthy condition.

3.0kg Temprano	Early (Dip)
2.0kg Ryder	Creeping Red Fescue
3.5kg Gusto	Int (Dip)
3.5kg Astonking	Late (Dip)
1.5kg Tenho	Timothy
0.5kg Markus	SSMG

## OF 11 LONG TERM HAY

For good soft hay, all Diploids for quicker drying.

5.0 kg Senu	Meadow Fescue
5.0 kg AstonConqueror	Int Dip
3.0 kg Comer	Timothy

Total Per Acre 13 kg.

(MIXES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE)



# PRODUCTIVE GRASSLAND SPECIES

## Perennial Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*)

Included in the vast majority of UK ley mixes due to its adaptability, persistence, longevity and potential to yield very highly. It is quick to establish and is winter hardy. Categorized as early, mid and late flowering, ranging from Mid-May to Mid-June, with numerous varieties to choose from. Some are very leafy with little stem, ideal for grazing. Others are better suited to silage making having an earlier more upright growth. It yields around 13 tonnes DM/ha and most varieties last around 5 years or more.

### Early Perennials

These varieties grow well in spring with an upright growth and bulk up quickly for conservation. They are more persistent than Italian Ryegrasses, but mid-season production isn't quite as high.

### Intermediate Perennials

Due to their denser growth pattern, Intermediate or mid-season are often used to put a bottom into mixtures. They are persistent and potentially offer high yields for both grazing and conservation throughout the season.

### Late Perennials

These extremely persistent varieties are included in long term leys where their dense growth stands up well to paddling by hooves and they yield well, mid to late season.

## Italian Ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*)

Used in short term leys, Italian Ryegrass only last 18 to 24 months but are earlier maturing than Perennials by up to 3 weeks. They produce a more open sward with few tillers, but they respond well to a dressing of nitrogen fertilisers and can provide up to 18 tonnes DM/ha in suitable conditions. They require frequent cutting/topping to maintain quality, and surplus growth needs to be removed to improve winter hardiness. To achieve optimum levels of spring growth, late summer/early autumn establishment is best.

### Hybrid Ryegrass

Italian/Perennial Ryegrass Hybrids can possess some very useful qualities addressing the short comings of both parents. Depending on the variety, they can be more persistent than an Italian lasting up to 4 years and with a better ground cover. Generally better suited to wetter conditions. They can also offer quick regrowth, responding well to nitrogen applications, so can be more productive than a Perennial. For high protein leys they mix well with Red Clover.

### Tetraploids

As a result of having more chromosomes and larger cells, Tetraploids have larger seeds and leaves. This makes them ideal for over-seeding as they are quick to establish. They have a high tolerance of drought conditions and are winter hardy. Compared with Diploids they also offer improved palatability and higher sugar levels. They tiller less and aren't so persistent so are more suited to silage leys than long term grazing leys.





# PRODUCTIVE GRASSLAND SPECIES

## **Westerwolds (*Lolium westerwoldicum*) Timothy (*Phleum pratense*)**

The highest yielding ryegrass with similar qualities to Italians. It is an annual grass. May be sown in the autumn for cropping in the spring and summer or sown in the spring for summer production. The main attribute of this species is its rapid production in only 12 to 14 weeks from sowing. Defoliation by either cutting or grazing is essential to prevent a serious decline in digestibility due to their prolific heading! They are invariably sown as a straight because of its fast growth and short lifespan with a typical silage yield of 13.5 tonnes of DM/ha can be expected from a spring sown crop.

Can be slow to establish and not likely to yield as highly as Perennial Ryegrass, but Timothy is an important long-term grass and offers several useful characteristics justifying its inclusion in grass mixes. It grows at lower temperatures than ryegrass so is good for early bite, particularly in cold late springs. Very winter hardy and persists well in wet conditions and maintains production on poorer dry soils despite having a shallow root structure. It provides good mid-season growth and palatability when ryegrass growth falters so is often included in both cut and graze mixes. Very good for pastures grazed mainly by sheep and can make good hay. Very persistent and disease free.

## **Cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerate*)**

Another grass that provides “early bite” in the spring and recovers quickly after grazing or cutting. If grazed hard Cocksfoot remains leafy and can be very good for up to four years but in long-term pasture it eventually becomes “tussocky”, coarse and unpalatable. It has lower digestibility and sugars than Ryegrass. Continues growing in dry weather due to deep roots, so has a role to play on difficult soil types and is winter hardy.





# CLOWERS - PART OF THE LEGUME FAMILY

## “The nitrogen fixers!”

### White Clover (*Trifolium repens*)

White Clover is the most popular of the forage legumes with a protein content up to 50% higher than the 16% of a typical ryegrass. Due to high palatability, mixing the two together can increase forage consumption and boost livestock production. White clover has a stem or Stolon that grows along the ground producing leaves and flower heads at the low levels that suit grazing animals. It grows on virtually all soils, is long lasting and is drought resistant.

### Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*)

Even in mixes of assertive grasses the inclusion rates of this dominant upright plant tend to be low so as not to overwhelm the grass. Its protein is naturally protected from degradation by ensiling so is ideal for conservation. It is often grazed in the autumn by both cattle and finishing lambs to counter falling grass quality. However, if intake is not restricted it does carry a bloat risk! It is naturally high in oestrogen, so it is advisable a month either side of tugging to deny breeding sheep access to it. The fertility of cattle does not seem to be affected. It is less persistent than White Clover, lasting no more than 3 or 4 years at best, but it can fix up to 150kgs N/ha/ year.

### Alsike Clover (*Trifolium hybridum*)

Is a perennial clover first introduced to agriculture from Sweden in 1834. It has an appearance somewhere between White and Red Clover which is where its Hybrid name comes from, but it is actually a true species. Suits heavy clays and acidic conditions, but not as quick growing or as high yielding as red Clover, but otherwise very similar. Not suitable for grazing by horses.

### Crimson Clover (*Trifolium incarnatum*)

Also known as Italian Clover it is native to most of Europe. Excellent on light free draining soils, this annual can produce a stunning display of Crimson flowers attracting a variety of insects. Often sown after a harvested cereal for winter keep, but also makes a useful green manure and soil improver due to its quick bulky growth, deep roots and its ability to smother weeds.



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