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SeedMark 2020

Award winning seed options

Germinal

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SeedMark

SeedMark is the long established, guaranteed quality range of mixtures from Germinal, formulated from our years of expertise as suppliers of the market leading forage products for the livestock sector.

Move forward with forage in 2020

Increased production and utilisation of quality forage is within reach of most livestock farmers and is the best route to business resilience in such times of uncertainty.

Progress in grass and clover breeding continues to offer greater potential, whilst innovative brassica fodder crops and fresh thinking around multi species leys are great examples of the opportunities to improve returns from homegrown feed.

Increasing your rate of reseeding is the first step towards a more sustainable enterprise, with the benefits of greater productivity far outweighing the investment.

Through collaborations with our breeding partners and ongoing work at the Germinal Research Station, we are continually improving our offer. As you'll see in our latest SeedMark catalogue, we are providing access to the latest Aber High Sugar Grass varieties and Aber white and red clovers, as well as the best alternative pasture species and top-performing brassica fodder crops.

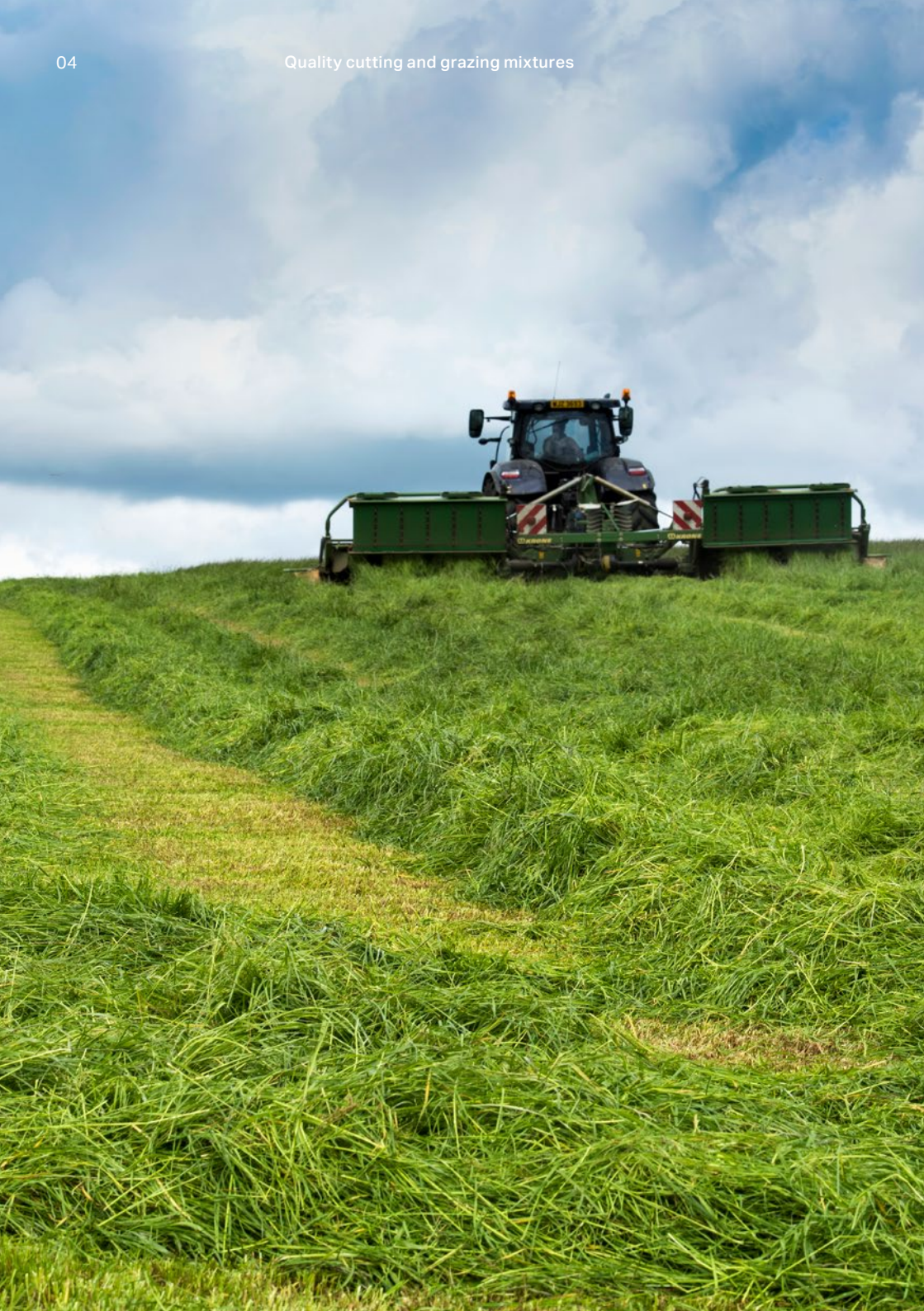
Our goal is to provide the knowledge and the tools you need to make the most of forage and help you build a more sustainable business.

Ben Wixey
National Agricultural Sales Manager, Germinal GB

Mixture selector

	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM	ORGANIC
CUTTING	Sprint	Relay Multi Species Cutting Ley		Bio Cutting Bio Red 5 Bio Super Cut Red Clover
DUAL PURPOSE	Pit Filler	Dual Purpose Haylage (Equestrian)	Greengold Permanent Pasture Horse Paddock (Equestrian)	Bio Dual
GRAZING			Permanent Pasture Clover Ley Multi Species Grazing Ley	Bio Pasture

* AberDairy: 33% AberDai, 33% AberHerald, 34% AberSwan
** AberPasture: 50% AberHerald, 20% AberDai, 10% AberPearl, 10% AberLasting, 5% AberAce, 5% AberVantage.



SHORT TERM

Sprint

A highly productive ley of Italian ryegrasses lasting for 2 years, suitable for silage, haylage or hay.

Fig 01.

Sprint:

Kg/acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
4.00	Muriello	Italian Ryegrass	20 May
4.50	Kigezi 1	Italian Ryegrass (T)	20 May
4.50	Fox	Italian Ryegrass	21 May
13.00 kg			

T = Tetraploid

Heading date average for Sprint is 20 May for central Britain. When cutting for silage, aim to cut 5-10 days before average heading date for optimum quality.

AVAILABLE WITH RED CLOVER

Pit Filler

A high yielding silage mixture, which will last 3 to 4 years, with the potential for excellent aftermath grazing.

Fig 02.

Pit Filler:

Kg/acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
6.00	AberEve HSG	Hybrid Ryegrass (T)	21 May
4.00	AberDart HSG	Perennial Ryegrass	25 May
3.00	AstonEnergy	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	01 June
13.00 kg			

T = Tetraploid

Heading date average for Pit Filler is 25 May for central Britain. When cutting for silage, aim to cut 5-10 days before average heading date for optimum quality.

MEDIUM TERM

AVAILABLE WITHOUT CLOVER

Relay

Medium term (4 – 5 years) multi-cut mixture containing high yielding hybrid AberEve HSG, giving excellent spring growth and quality aftermath grazing potential.

Relay now includes the high ranking Aber HSG varieties AberWolf and AberAvon, and becomes an ideal replacement mixture for Germinal's old Cut & Graze dual purpose mixture.

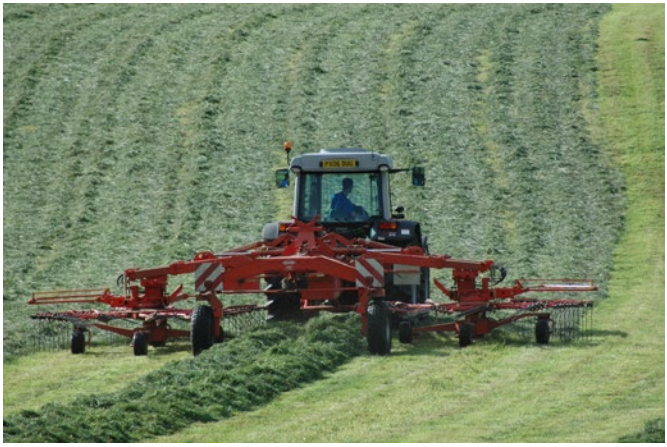
Fig 03.

Relay:

Kg/acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
4.00	AberEve HSG	Hybrid Ryegrass (T)	21 May
3.00	AberWolf HSG	Perennial Ryegrass	28 May
2.00	AberAvon HSG	Perennial Ryegrass	02 June
3.00	Calao	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	02 June
1.00	AberDairy*	White Clover Blend	
13.00 kg			

T = Tetraploid

Heading date average for Relay is 28 May for central Britain. When cutting for silage, aim to cut 5-10 days before average heading date for optimum quality.



MEDIUM TERM

Dual Purpose

AVAILABLE WITHOUT CLOVER

AVAILABLE WITH PUNA II

This is a 5 year ley, with a balanced blend of intermediate and late heading varieties, making the ideal flexible long term cutting and grazing ley. Suitable for all livestock systems with excellent spring and autumn grazing.

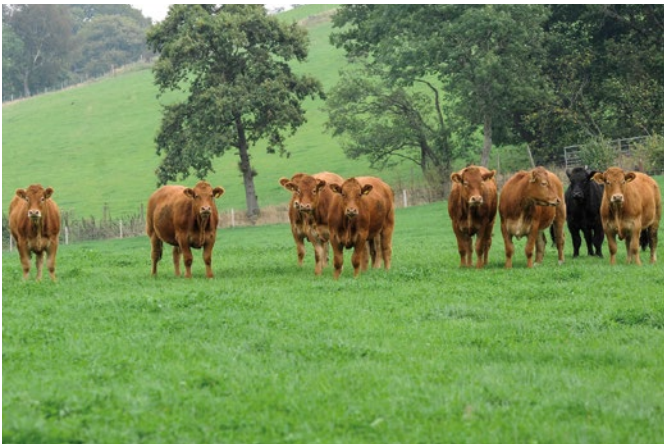
Fig 04.

Dual Purpose:

Kg/acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
3.00	AberWolf HSG	Perennial Ryegrass	28 May
2.00	AstonEnergy	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	01 June
3.00	AberAvon HSG	Perennial Ryegrass	02 June
4.00	Calao	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	02 June
1.00	AberDairy*	White Clover Blend	
13.00 kg			

T = Tetraploid

Heading date average for Dual Purpose is 01 June for central Britain. When cutting for silage, aim to cut 5 -10 days before average heading date for optimum quality.



LONG TERM

Greengold

AVAILABLE WITHOUT CLOVER

AVAILABLE WITH PUNA II

A long term ley suitable for cutting and grazing within all livestock systems. Timothy is included to provide improved spring growth, and greater persistency when winter grazing or in other harsh conditions. Ideal for silage or hay, with dense and palatable aftermath grazing.

Greengold now includes the high ranking Aber HSG variety AberChoice and becomes an ideal replacement mixture for Germinal's old Milk Maker dual purpose mixture.

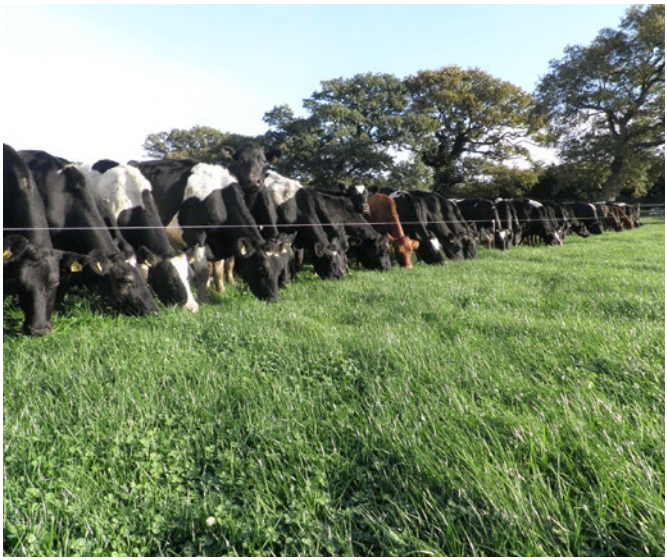
Fig 05.

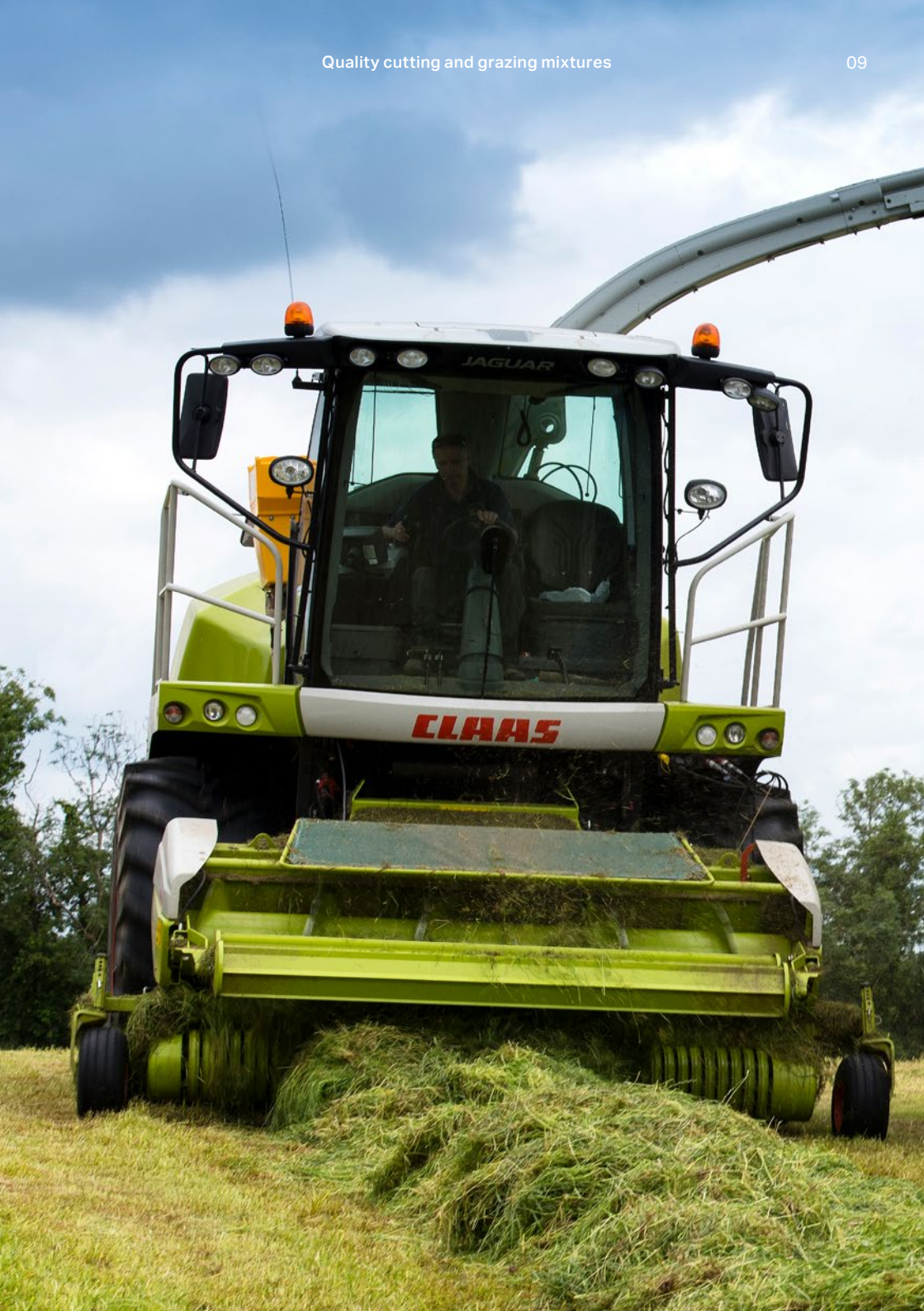
Greengold:

Kg/acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
4.00	AberDart HSG	Perennial Ryegrass	25 May
4.00	Calao	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	02 June
1.00	Presto	Timothy	07 June
4.00	AberChoice HSG	Perennial Ryegrass	09 June
1.00	AberDairy*	White Clover Blend	
14.00 kg			

T = Tetraploid

Heading date average for Greengold is 02 June for central Britain. When cutting for silage, aim to cut 5-10 days before average heading date for optimum quality.




JAGUAR
CLAAS

LONG TERM

AVAILABLE WITHOUT CLOVER

AVAILABLE WITH PUNA II

Permanent Pasture

A long term persistent ley with a dense sward, suitable for all livestock systems, excellent spring and autumn growth for year round performance.

Fig 06.

Permanent Pasture:

Kg/acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
5.00	AberDart HSG	Perennial Ryegrass	25 May
4.00	AberWolf HSG	Perennial Ryegrass	28 May
3.00	AberAvon HSG	Perennial Ryegrass	02 June
1.00	Presto	Timothy	07 June
1.00	AberPasture**	White Clover Blend	
14.00 kg			

T = Tetraploid

AVAILABLE WITH PUNA II

Clover Ley

A long term grazing mixture with extra clover for increased intake potential and nitrogen fixing. Use where additional clover is required or clover establishment is challenged. Persistent under all management systems.

Fig 07.

Clover Ley:

Kg/acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
3.00	AberDart HSG	Perennial Ryegrass	25 May
3.00	AstonEnergy	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	01 June
4.00	AberAvon HSG	Perennial Ryegrass	02 June
2.00	Calao	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	02 June
1.00	AberPasture**	White Clover Blend	
1.00	AberDairy*	White Clover Blend	
14.00 kg			

T = Tetraploid

Heading date average for Clover Ley is 31 May for central Britain. When cutting for silage, aim to cut 5-10 days before average heading date for optimum quality.

MULTI SPECIES LEYS

Grazing Ley

HERB OPTION AVAILABLE

AVAILABLE WITHOUT RED CLOVER

Multi Species leys perform by combining different plant types with complementary characteristics, such as nitrogen fixing clovers and nitrogen lifting grasses. There are also advantages to be gained by having swards with varying leaf and root architectures that maximise the use of light, moisture and nutrients above and below ground.

Fig 08.

Multi Species Grazing Ley:

Kg/acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
3.00	AberClyde HSG	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	24 May
3.00	AberZeus HSG	Perennial Ryegrass	26 May
3.00	AberGreen HSG	Perennial Ryegrass	30 May
1.00	Presto	Timothy	07 June
0.50	Puna II	Perennial Chicory	
0.75	Tonic	Plantain	
1.00	AberPasture**	White Clover Blend	
1.50	AberClaret	Long Lasting Red Clover	
13.75 kg			

Cutting Ley

HERB OPTION AVAILABLE

This cutting ley includes a vetch and an annual white clover to provide a boost in dry matter production in the first year.

Fig 09.

Multi Species Cutting Ley:

Kg/acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
3.00	AberClyde HSG	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	24 May
3.00	AberZeus HSG	Perennial Ryegrass	26 May
3.00	AberGreen HSG	Perennial Ryegrass	30 May
1.00	Presto	Timothy	07 June
0.75	Tonic	Plantain	
1.00	AberDairy*	White Clover Blend	
1.50	AberClaret	Long Lasting Red Clover	
4.00		Vetch	
1.00	FiXatioN	Balansa Annual White Clover	
18.25 kg			

EQUESTRIAN

Haylage

A high yielding, extremely palatable, easy to dry haylage mixture with excellent aftermath grazing potential.

Fig 12.

Haylage:

Kg/acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
4.50	AberEve HSG	Hybrid Ryegrass (T)	21 May
4.50	Fox	Italian Ryegrass	21 May
3.00	AberBite HSG	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	04 June
12.00 kg			

T = Tetraploid

Heading date average for Haylage is 24 May for central Britain.

Horse Paddock

A very resistant mixture with good establishment, ground cover and persistency, specifically designed for horses and ponies. It is also suitable for hay production.

Fig 13.

Horse Paddock:

Kg/acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
2.00	AstonEnergy	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	01 June
5.00	Clanrye	Perennial Ryegrass	05 June
2.00	Presto	Timothy	07 June
1.00	Liherold	Meadow Fescue	
3.00	Corail	Strong Creeping Red Fescue	
13.00 kg			

PASTURE RENOVATION

Renovation

AVAILABLE WITHOUT CLOVER

Specialist mixture for overseeding into worn out swards, to boost cutting and grazing performance.

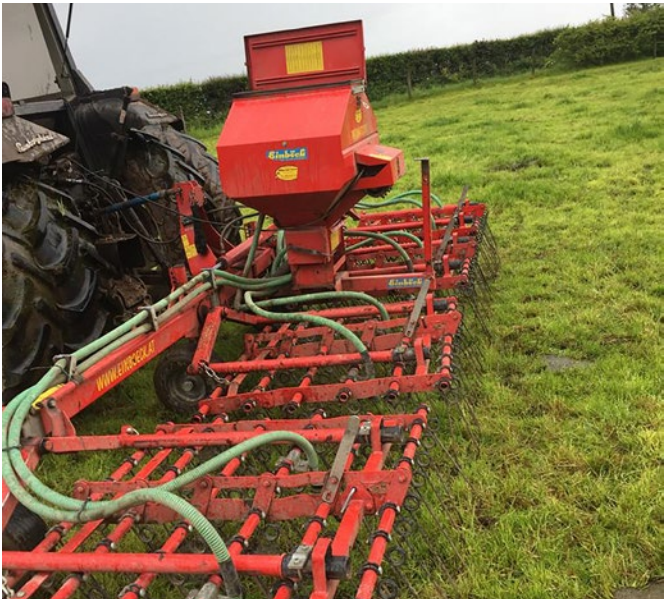
Fig 13.

Renovation

Kg/acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
3.00	AberDart HSG	Perennial Ryegrass	25 May
3.00	AstonEnergy	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	01 June
3.00	Calao	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	02 June
1.00	AberHerald	White Clover	
10.00 kg			

T = Tetraploid

Heading date for Renovation is 30 May for central Britain.



ORGANIC MIXTURES

Bio Cutting

Fig 15.

Bio Cutting:

Kg/acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
4.00	AberEve HSG	Hybrid Ryegrass (T)	21 May
3.00	AberClyde HSG (Organic)	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	24 May
2.00	AberDart HSG (Organic)	Perennial Ryegrass	25 May
2.00	AberGreen HSG	Perennial Ryegrass	30 May
2.00	AstonEnergy (Organic)	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	01 June
1.00	Aran	Large White Clover	
14.00 kg			

T = Tetraploid

Key benefits in summary

- High cutting yields
- Large leaved, high yielding white clover
- Persists for three to five years
- Three cuts per year

Bio Dual

Fig 16.

Bio Dual:

Kg/acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
3.00	AberClyde HSG (Organic)	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	24 May
4.00	AberDart HSG (Organic)	Perennial Ryegrass	25 May
3.50	AberGain HSG	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	03 June
2.50	AberLee HSG	Perennial Ryegrass	07 June
1.00	AberPasture**	White Clover Blend	
14.00 kg			

T = Tetraploid

Key benefits in summary

- One or two cuts followed by grazing
- Three to five year ley
- High D-value
- Aber HSG varieties

ORGANIC MIXTURES

Bio Pasture

Fig 17.

Bio Pasture:

Kg/acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
2.00	AberClyde HSG (Organic)	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	24 May
3.00	AberDart HSG (Organic)	Perennial Ryegrass	25 May
1.50	AberAvon HSG	Perennial Ryegrass	02 June
1.50	AberGain HSG	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	03 June
3.00	AberLee HSG	Perennial Ryegrass	07 June
2.00	AberChoice HSG (Organic)	Perennial Ryegrass	09 June
1.00	AberPasture**	White Clover Blend	
14.00 kg			

Key benefits in summary

- Seven years plus
- Suitable for grazing by cattle and sheep
- Aber HSG content
- Small and medium leaved white clover

Bio Red 5

Fig 18.

Bio Red 5:

Kg/acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
3.00	AberClyde HSG (Organic)	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	24 May
3.00	AberDart HSG (Organic)	Perennial Ryegrass	25 May
2.00	AberSpey HSG	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	02 June
1.00	AberGreen HSG	Perennial Ryegrass	03 June
1.50	AberClaret	Long Lasting Red Clover	
1.50	AberChianti	Long Lasting Red Clover	
12.00 kg			

T = Tetraploid

Key benefits in summary

- A true five year ley for high protein silage
- Grasses and clovers chosen to perform together and last the full term
- Shorter term Bio Super Cut Red Clover also available

Grass as a feedstock for anaerobic digestion

Anaerobic digestion (AD) is a growth area in renewable energy with increasing numbers of farm businesses involved with their own plant or by growing feedstock.

The use of grass leys as a feedstock is attracting interest due to the range of advantages offered:

- Grass as a crop is relatively cheap and easy to grow in our climate and soil types
- It is cost effective compared to other biogas fuels
- Equipment and infrastructure to grow and handle this feedstock is already in place
- Grass can be used fresh (offering the highest rate of gas production) and would be cut and carried on a rotational basis; it can also be stored and used as silage
- Medium and long term grass leys offer a more environmentally sustainable option than crops requiring annual cultivations
- Grass leys allow more opportunity to spread the waste products from the digesters, whether that is liquid or solid, without the need to plough back under
- Blackgrass control, using the rotational aspects and cutting regime to reduce seed banks

Aber High Sugar Grasses for AD

As with the supply of feed for livestock, where well managed Aber HSG leys are the cheapest source of nutrition for meat and milk production, Aber HSG offers great potential for biogas production.

Studies carried out at IBERS show that Aber HSG ryegrasses perform well compared to general grassland mixtures. All the Aber HSG varieties out-performed mixed grassland with the conclusion that higher water soluble carbohydrate content in grass has a positive effect on both the yield and rate at which biogas is produced.

To help answer outstanding questions, Germinal is setting up a study at IBERS comparing Aber HSG varieties with alternative feedstocks that have a range of D-values and at varying harvest dates.

Aber HSG mixtures for AD

Aber High Sugar Grass varieties that have been bred for higher water soluble carbohydrate (sugar) content, and rank high for D-value, offer the ideal combination of characteristics for an AD feedstock, whether ensiled or as a fresh crop.

Fig 19.

AD Short term:

Kg/acre	Variety	Type
4.00	AberClyde HSG	Perennial Ryegrass (T)
5.00	AberEve HSG	Hybrid Ryegrass (T)
5.00	AberNiche	Festulolium
14.00 kg		

T = Tetraploid

Fig 20.

AD Medium term:

Kg/acre	Variety	Type
6.00	AberEve HSG	Hybrid Ryegrass (T)
8.00	AberMagic HSG	Perennial Ryegrass
14.00 kg		

T = Tetraploid

Fig 21.

AD Long term:

Kg/acre	Variety	Type
5.00	AberMagic HSG	Perennial Ryegrass
4.00	AberGreen HSG	Perennial Ryegrass
5.00	AberBite HSG	Perennial Ryegrass (T)
14.00 kg		

T = Tetraploid

Puna II perennial chicory

The leading perennial chicory for UK farmers

Puna II is the leading perennial chicory variety, selected through a long term breeding programme in New Zealand for its nutritive value, productivity, palatability and persistency.

It is a broad-leaved perennial forage crop that can be grown in the UK as a pure stand, or as a key part of mixed swards with clover, or grass and clover, for medium-long term rotational grazing (2 - 5 year persistency).

Perennial chicory should not be confused with short-lived common chicory grown unsuccessfully previously. Selection strategy in breeding Puna II has included tolerance to the fungal disease Sclerotinia, which causes plant death, and an erect growth habit to improve compatibility with ryegrass.

Key benefits of Puna II

- Outstanding animal performance (e.g. lamb growth rates of 300 - 400g/day)
- Yields up to 15tDM/ha in a season; crude protein up to 25%; D-value 70 - 80
- High mineral content, including zinc, potassium and copper
- Good tolerance to drought, acidic soils and major pests
- Rapid regrowth after grazing
- Reduces the effect of internal parasites
- Provides high quality feed through the summer
- Does not cause bloat

Tonic plantain

Tonic plantain is a broad leaved perennial forage herb that is an ideal companion in mixed species swards, with Aber red and white clovers and Aber High Sugar Grasses.

It is a coarse rooted plant that is well adapted to a range of soil types. With similar total annual yields to Puna II perennial chicory, it has slightly better spring and autumn growth.

Tonic plantain is highly productive and provides high quality feed that can boost liveweight gain in livestock. It is ideally suited to intensive or rotational grazing systems, with rapid regrowth post-grazing in dry summers.

Key benefits of Tonic plantain

- More milk or meat production
- Increased daily liveweight gain
- Heavier weights at weaning
- High dry matter production from early spring to late autumn
- Reduces the effects of internal parasites
- High in minerals, especially copper and selenium
- Very palatable

Cost saving fodder crops

Brassicas include a wide variety of fodder crops that offer dairy, beef and sheep farmers in the UK valuable alternative sources of home produced feed.

Leafy crops such as kale, and roots including stubble turnips and swedes, have had a traditional role on livestock farms, but there are now more modern varieties and innovative systems of utilisation that offer fresh dimensions. Hybrid brassicas provide a good example, combining the fast growth characteristics of rape with the winter tolerance of kale.

With more versatile forage crops in the armoury, the options to fill summer grazing gaps, extend autumn grazing or support out-wintering systems have never been greater.

Summary of benefits of brassica fodder crops

Feed cost savings

- Economic solution to summer grazing deficiencies
- Reduce the need for conserved winter forage
- Limit reliance on bought-in concentrates

Rotational benefits

- Pioneer crops for previously uncultivated areas
- Valuable break before pasture renewal
- Good break crop in arable grazing rotations

Overall enterprise profitability

- Extended grazing season
- Increase output per hectare
- Reduce labour, machinery and housing costs

Health, welfare and environment

- Avoid housing-related health problems by out-wintering
- Reduce fuel required for silage and bought-in feeds
- Limit the risk of forage shortages due to drought

Forage brassica options

Triumph swede

- High energy winter grazing for cattle and sheep

Maris Kestrel kale

- Leading kale variety renowned for high digestibility and long utilisation period
- Ideal for out-wintering

Bittern kale

- High yielding and very palatable
- Suitable for grazing or game cover

Swift hybrid brassica

- High yielding forage crop with regrowth potential
- Summer, autumn or out-wintered grazing

Redstart hybrid brassica

- Rapidly establishing forage crop with regrowth potential
- Ideal where rapid growth is the priority, to provide summer, autumn or winter grazing

Stego forage rape

- High yielding with high leaf-to-stem ratio
- Excellent disease resistance, including mildew

Vollenda stubble turnip

- Easy establishment, high yielding fodder crop with good resistance to bolting
- Summer, autumn or out-wintered grazing

Appin grazing turnip

- Fast growing leafy grazing turnip
- Autumn/winter grazing with regrowth potential

Brassica mixtures

- Allow fodder crops to be tailored to specific circumstances
- Higher intakes and greater production per hectare

Are your leys past their best?

However well managed, grass leys will decline with time and after seven or eight years around half the herbage will be less-productive weed grasses.

Some leys may deteriorate more quickly, with common causes including:

- Poor establishment at the outset
- Inadequate soil fertility
- Pest and disease attack
- Poor mixture or variety selection
- Excessive use of slurry
- Poor drainage
- Poaching and/or soil compaction
- Under stocking or poor utilisation

Your pasture health checklist

- Increased presence of docks, thistles, nettles, chickweed or other weeds ☐
- Unproductive grasses such as bents, meadow grasses, red fescue and Yorkshire fog ☐
- Drop offs in silage production or stock carrying capacity ☐
- Slow regrowths after cutting or grazing ☐
- Reduced response to fertiliser ☐
- Rejection or uneven grazing ☐
- Intermittent growth or shortening of growing season ☐

If you have ticked any of the above, your ley is certainly coming to the end of its productive life and will benefit from some form of renovation or even replacement.

Successful establishment

PLAN

- Aim to renew 10 -15% of leys each year
- Spring or autumn, to suit your system

CHECK

- Soil pH is 5.8 - 6.5
- P & K indices are 2
- No drainage or soil structure issues
- Identify weeds in previous crop

ESTABLISH

- Rectify issues revealed in your check
- Work ground to a fine tilth
- Sow when soil is moist and warm (over 5ºC)
- Drill into top 15mm
- Roll to ensure good soil-to-seed contact

MANAGE

- Identify any emerging weeds and control early
- Assess pest threat and control early
- Graze new leys lightly with sheep or youngstock when grass reaches 7.5 to 10cm and passes the 'pull test', to consolidate roots and promote tillering

Reseeding grassland

Using unique hybrid brassicas as a beneficial break

Full reseed or sward renovation?

Whilst short-term productivity can be improved cost effectively through a variety of over-seeding methods, there is no doubt that a full cultivation reseed is the best method of establishing a new ley.

Plough up an old ley and carry out a full reseed when any of the following are evident:

- Sown species make up less than 50% of the sward
- The cost of controlling weeds, pests and/or diseases is prohibitive
- Poaching or compaction levels have become unmanageable
- Rotational policy dictates a change of crop

Why use a break crop?

In the context of pasture renewal, a break crop offers the following advantages:

- Additional forage dry matter production per hectare (from the break crop)
- Disruption of grass-specific pest and disease cycles
- Elimination of pasture-based animal parasites
- Enhanced weed control opportunities
- Extended opportunities to address soil nutrients and/or soil condition

The role of unique hybrid brassicas in grassland reseeding

The new unique rape/kale hybrid brassica varieties Swift and Redstart have specific and unrivalled characteristics that make them key components of the SwiftStart reseeding system:

- Short (8 - 12 week) seed-to-grazing gap
- Multiple grazing
- High yields of highly palatable high D-value forage
- Wide sowing window
- Winter hardy

The SwiftStart system can be used for spring or autumn reseeding.

Reseeding grassland

Using minimum tillage techniques

Many modern drills are designed to sow grass, clover or brassica seeds without the need for ploughing. These include machines that create slots and place the seed, and others that disturb the soil surface and broadcast or dribble the seed. In all cases, rolling is important to create the required soil-to-seed contact and a fine and firm grass seedbed.

In most cases, the preceding crop (especially when grass follows grass) will need to be sprayed off (e.g. with glyphosate), and it is important to assess the potential impact of the sub-surface thatch or mat by first digging a number of holes across the field.

State of sub-surface	Recommended reseeding actions
Heavy mat	Wait for all plants to die back before proceeding with one of two options: - Use a shallow cultivation and roll technique to increase oxygen levels and drill in the same season - Spray off in autumn, apply lime over winter, and drill in early spring (a second low rate spray may be required)
Marginal mat	- Apply lime to help neutralise the effects of acid decomposition and allow sufficient time for the old sward to die back
Open ley	- Typically the best situation for direct drilling as root mat is unlikely to hamper seedlings as it breaks down

Guidelines to reseeding using minimum tillage

Optimum timing; April (as soon as you have a surplus of grass in your rotation) or mid-August to mid-September

- Soil test in good time
- Check subsurface mat / thatch and compaction level – sub soil if necessary
- Tight graze or cut
- Harrow any dung pats
- Leave 5 - 7 days
- Spray off (e.g. with glyphosate)
- Apply lime at 2.5t/ha
- Apply P & K fertiliser
- Direct drill grass seed 5 days after spraying at full reseed rate
- Apply slug pellets
- Control weeds (e.g. chickweed) 4 - 6 weeks after sowing
- Graze as soon as plants are well established, approximately 7.5 to 10cm tall and able to withstand the ‘pull test’

Renovating (overseeding) grassland

Without spraying off the established ley

Sward rejuvenation can be a good way to improve the yield and quality of grassland whilst minimising any time out of production, cost effectively extending the life of a ley by 2 – 3 years.

It should be used selectively on leys past their best but still with at least 50% of the sown species present, or in situations when ground is difficult to fully reseed due to slopes or stones, for example.

The uplift in performance will depend on the state of the old sward, but a 10% increase in dry matter yield and an improvement in the D-value of around 0.5MJ/kg ME should ensure a return on investment in the first year.

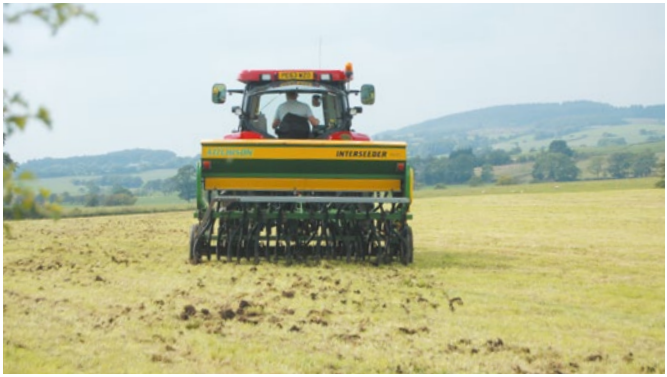
Guidelines to renovating established grassland

Optimum timing; late spring or early summer through to autumn

- Soil test in good time
- Check subsurface mat/thatch and compaction level – sub soil if necessary (in situations where heavy levels of mat/thatch are present overseeding is less likely to be successful)
- Tight graze or cut
- Harrow any dung pats
- Apply lime at 2.5t/ha
- Apply P & K fertiliser (do not apply nitrogen)
- Direct drill grass seed immediately at the rate of 10kg/acre
- Apply slug pellets if necessary
- Control weeds (e.g. chickweed) 4 - 6 weeks after sowing
- Graze as soon as plants are well established, approximately 7.5 to 10cm tall and able to withstand the ‘pull test’

Overseeding clover

- Spray out broad-leaved weeds before overseeding clover
- Check soil pH (target 6 – 6.5); check P and K (target index 2)
- Ensure there is an open sward, for good soil-to-seed contact
- Overseed in May / June, whilst soils remain moist
- Use a blend of two or three Recommended List varieties, selected for the purpose
- Apply clover seed at 5kg/Ha along with a compound fertiliser (e.g. 0:20:30 NPK) at around 60kg/ha
- Broadcast the clover seed and fertiliser, mixing carefully in the field to avoid segregation in the hopper
- Apply slurry after overseeding but avoid applying nitrogen fertiliser for the remainder of the year
- Graze hard (to residuals of 4cm) to prevent covers becoming too high and smothering the clover seedlings
- Continue tight grazing up to the point of closing up for winter. Graze tightly again in the spring, to encourage clover establishment. Avoid overgrazing in the case of red clover, as this can damage the crown and kill the plants



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The mixtures in this brochure are correct at the time of going to press and the supplies of the varieties used in the mixtures should be adequate for this season. If, however, we do run short of some, they will be replaced by the next best variety on the Recommended List.

Ben Wixey
National Agricultural Sales Manager
T: 07990 578550

Paul Morgan
Southern England and South Wales
T: 07713 878069

William Fleming
Scotland and North East England
T: 07971 640428

Helen Mathieu
Central, Eastern and North West
England and North Wales
T: 07866 456056

Germinal GB Limited
Camp Road
Witham St. Hughs
Lincoln LN6 9QJ

T: +44 (0) 1522 868 714
lincoln@germinal.co.uk