

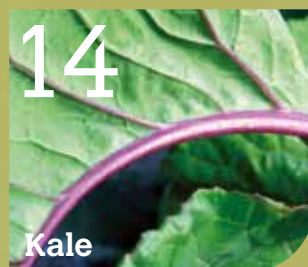


UP FOR C F C



GAME, WILDLIFE & THE ENVIRONMENT

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WELCOME



I am very pleased to present our most recent Game and Conservation Brochure. It contains details of all our specialist mixtures. Once you have studied the options, you may want to read its companion, the *Tractorman's Guide*: a booklet that focuses purely on growing the crops.

Bright Seeds is committed to ensure it supplies the right product. It does this by extensively trialling the most comprehensive range of game and conservation mixtures throughout the UK. The importance of matching crops to individual sites – giving consideration to altitude, soil type and climate – cannot be overestimated.

We are able to source seed from all over the world – and blend it into the individual mixtures that will deliver the best results. Our technical team can advise on site specific situations and provide all-round back-up support – from seedbed preparation to the end-crop.

Our policy is to be the best at what we do, through innovation, know how and professionalism.

As a family business we recognise the importance of ongoing trading relationships – and share many of the concerns and aspirations of our customers. We know that our success depends on your success.

I hope you enjoy this brochure and all of us at Bright Seeds look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Chris Bright

Order online at:

www.brightseeds.co.uk

Keep in touch via:

Bright-Seeds @Bright_Seeds

BENEFITS OF SOIL SAMPLING

Before you start, it is vital to know the condition of the soil, and the only way this can be done is with a full soil analysis. This will give you a prediction of the nutrients available to the crop and will help rule out possible crop establishment problems. The pH is also very important and any problems should be rectified before you sow.

We can test your soil for pH and the following available nutrient levels:

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| • Phosphorous | • Sulphur | • Iron |
| • Potassium | • Boron | • Copper |
| • Magnesium | • Sodium | • Zinc |
| • Calcium | • Manganese | • Molybdenum |

Our basic test is for pH, phosphorous, potassium, magnesium and lime. All you need to do is follow these sampling instructions and send us your soil samples.

Soil compaction

Quite often game crops are grown on field headlands, just the places that receive a lot of traffic in terms of heavy agricultural machinery. Soils will become compacted, resulting in difficult growing conditions and poor root development leading to an inadequate cover crop. The effects of compaction are particularly apparent in maize and sorghum crops.



Worm facts

- Earth worms feed on decomposing plant material (organic matter)
- Worm tunnels allow more water to enter the soil, considerably reducing erosion and improving soil structure
- It takes 500 years for worms to form 1 inch of topsoil
- Worm tunnels aerate the soil and make it easier for roots to develop
- There can be 500,000 worms burrowing in 1 acre of soil with a drainage system equal to 2,000 feet of 6" drain pipe
- One tablespoon of soil has more organisms in it than the world population
- Nearly all antibiotics that fight infection are obtained from soil organisms

If any of your game cover plots are suffering from soil compaction, then subsoil. This is a method where deep tines are pulled through the soil to fracture and break up the pan. Subsoiling will not work if the soil is too wet.

We can test the soil for the level of acidity/alkalinity (pH). Compaction tip – take a spade and dig a hole, if there is any compaction you will notice it at about 15" down at the plough pan.

12 steps to taking a soil sample

- Sample cover plots individually.
- Use a clean auger, hand trowel or spade (chromium plated or stainless steel).
- Carry a plastic bucket.
- Work out a W shaped sampling path the length of your plot.
- Avoid non representative areas such as bonfire sites, ditches, lime or manure dumps.
- Take 20 samples however big or small the plot.
- Remove the top 5cm (2") of soil and DISCARD.
- Take a sample to a depth of 15cm (6") for root crops, maize etc and 7.5cm (3") for grass.
- Place all 20 samples in the bucket and thoroughly mix avoiding spillage.
- Fill a polythene sample bag with soil from the bucket and seal securely.
- Label it immediately.
- As a guide, enclose 0.5kgs of soil.

UNDERSTANDING SOIL ANALYSIS

Analysis Results (SOIL)

Distributor BRIGHT SEEDS LTD

Date Received 25/11/2010

GREAT BUSTARD

Ref No PEN/UNFERTILISED
D028900/01
KALE

Analysis	Result	Guideline	Interpretation	Comments
	7.9	6.5	High	Possible interference on availability of P, K, Mn and Fe.
Phosphorus (ppm)	13	26	Low	(Index 1.5) 75 kg/ha P2O5 (60 units/acre).
Potassium (ppm)	333	241	Normal	(Index 3.5) Adequate level.
Nitrogen (ppm)	63	100	Low	(Index 2.2) CONSIDER TREATMENT WITH N

General Comments

There is a multi element deficiency consider applications of PHOTREL at 3 kg/ha. ALWAYS REFER TO THE PRODUCT LABEL FOR SPECIFIC ADVICE ON RATES AND TIMINGS BEFORE USING A YARA PRODUCT.

Note

Every care is taken to ensure that the Results from Analysis are representative of the area received by the laboratory, and is representative of any part of a field or growing area not covered by analysis is representative of the area requiring analysis. Please refer to the instructions on how to take soil, leaf, herbage, etc.

This report has been generated by Yara's Megalab™



Soil pH (potential hydrogen)

The pH of soil, or more precisely the pH of the soil solution, is very important because soil solution carries in it nutrients such as nitrogen (N), potassium (K), and phosphorus (P) that plants need in specific amounts to grow, thrive, and fight off diseases. If the pH of the soil solution is increased above 5.5, nitrogen (in the form of nitrate) is made available to plants. Phosphorus, on the other hand, is available to plants when soil pH is between 6.0 and 7.0. Certain bacteria help plants obtain N by converting atmospheric nitrogen into a form of N that plants can use. These bacteria live in root nodules of legumes (like alfalfa and soybeans) and function best when the pH of the plant they live in is growing in soil within an acceptable pH range.

Nitrogen

Plants absorb nitrogen from the soil. As nitrification is so prevalent in agricultural farmed soil most of the nitrogen is taken up as nitrate. Nitrate moves freely throughout the soil gravitating towards plant roots as they absorb water. Because plants require very large quantities of N, an extensive root system is essential to allow maximum uptake. This is where phosphate comes in as phosphate is very important for root development. Most plants take up N from the soil continually throughout their lives, and as the plants increase in size so the N requirement increases. A plant supplied with adequate N grows rapidly with fresh green foliage. Plants with pale colouring and stunted growth are signs of N deficiency.

Phosphate

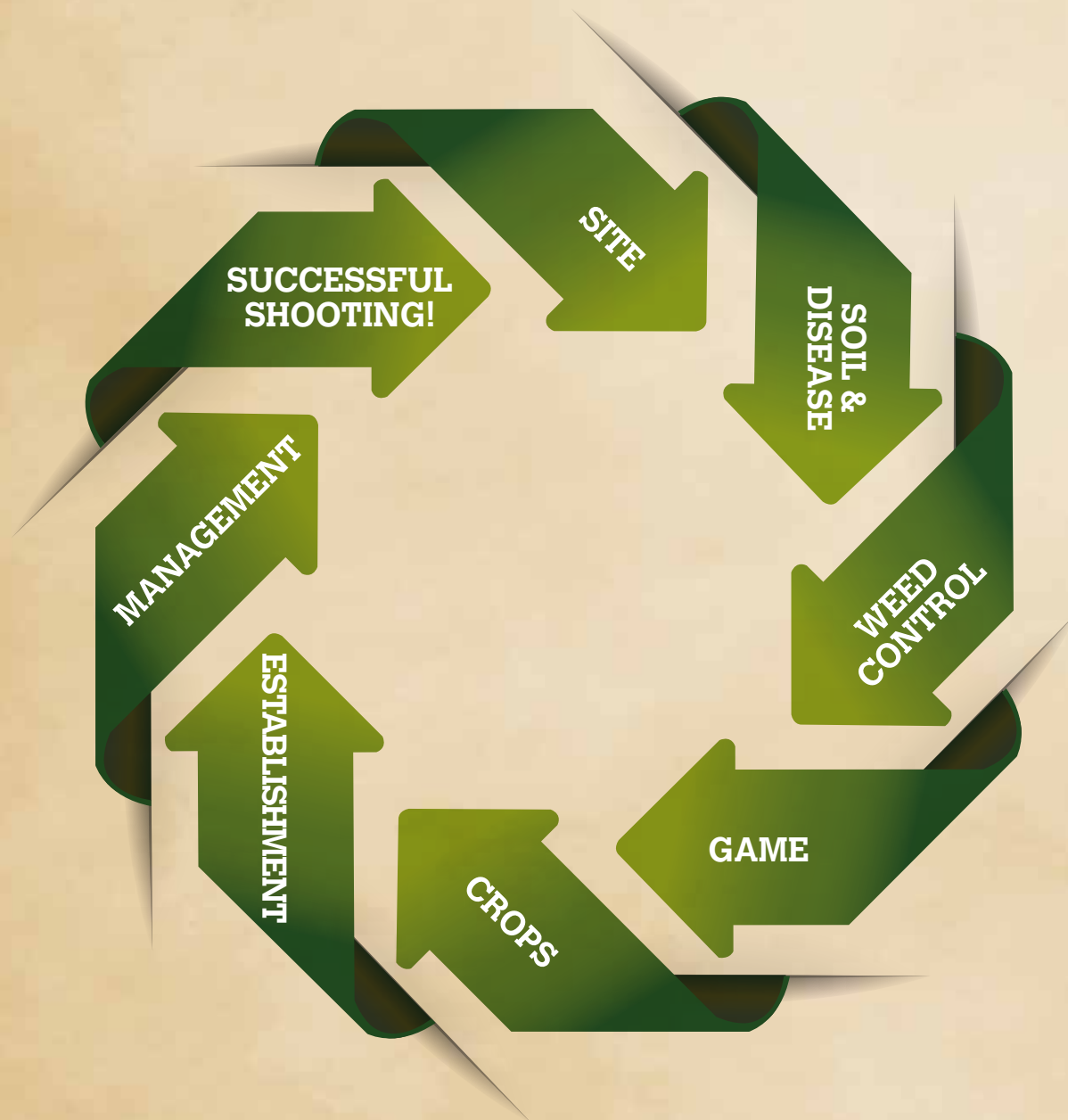
Adequate phosphate results in rapid growth and early maturity; it is readily translocated within the plant moving older to younger tissue as the plants form cells and develop roots, stems and leaves. A good supply of P is associated with increased root growth which means the roots can explore more soil and utilise extra nutrients. Without adequate P the plant will have very poor root growth and under developed stems and leaves.

Potassium (Potash K)

Potash is particularly important for plant stem extension and root development. This will help with drought tolerance and will considerably reduce lodging (falling over), all important for game cover. Potash reduces water loss and wilting; it builds cellulose and aids photosynthesis.

Particularly important for large stemmed plants like maize and kale!

8 STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL SHOOT COVER



- **Site selection**
- **Soil and disease:** Get a soil test done, know what you are starting with. Check the history of cropping.
- **Weed control:** Identify the weed content of the site.
- **Game:** What birds/animals are you trying to encourage?
- **Crops:** Carefully choose the crop according to the above situations.
- **Establishment:** Correct cultivations, drill or broadcast.
- **Management:** Consult your spray specialist for weed control. Don't forget to regularly monitor the crops.

Enjoy season-long cover...

CHEMICAL INFORMATION

To get the best out of your land, there are several very important factors that have to be in place, spraying is a critical one!

With the ever changing chemical list and developments in new products, it is getting increasingly difficult to recommend chemicals for mixtures and other particular crops.

Choosing the right chemical for your weed control is vital along with timing and application. We have the most up-to-date and accurate information where possible supported by two technical specialists who can deal with each enquiry on an individual basis.

Please contact the office
01722 744494 or phone Chris Batchelor on 07976 689299

MONEY WELL SPENT

A look at organisations supported by Bright Seeds:



The National Gamekeepers Organisation

Bright Seeds has a close affiliation with The National Gamekeepers Organisation (NGO) and supports it by donating a proportion of revenue generated from sales of some of its flagship mixtures.

For gamekeepers the working environment can take the form of harsh weather and tough terrain; but it can also present challenges in the shape of changing legislation, increased red-tape and an endless stream of paperwork.

Against this background, I believe it is impossible to overestimate the important role played by the NGO in supporting its members (currently 13,000). Founded in 1997 it tasks itself with giving its members better representation, and creating a better understanding about game-keeping amongst the general public. The NGO has never flinched from this undertaking.

The NGO nurtures a strong sense of community among its members and gives the sector a strong voice and coherent message.



World Pheasant Association

Bright Seeds support the World Pheasant Association (WPA) charity through donating a proportion of sales revenue from its dual purpose stewardship and game cover crop Pheasant and Finch.

The charity is committed to saving threatened avian species. Based in the UK, it carries out conservation projects to save threatened pheasants and other game birds (otherwise known as galliformes) in their native habitat, from the red-listed Edwards Pheasant in the jungles of Vietnam to the Black Grouse in the British uplands. It also has a conservation breeding programme for species in danger in the wild.

The work of the WPA also involves educating people about the existence of rare species and the threat they face. It identifies heightened awareness as an important weapon in the fight to preserve endangered species.



Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust

Bright Seeds supports and enjoys a close working relationship with the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT), which employs over 100 staff and undertakes around 60 research projects.

Bright Seeds and the GWCT have engaged in joint projects such as looking to overcoming depopulation of wild bird species in the English Countryside. Studies have focused on the best combinations of seedling plants to provide winter feed for farmland birds during the 'hungry gap'; and ways of improving management and control of vermin in cover crops.

The GWCT has close links to academia and much of its research is in collaboration with universities supervising PhD students. Using conservation science, the organisation aims to enhance the British countryside for public benefit.

GREAT BUSTARD GROUP



The Great Bustard Group

Bright Seeds has supported the Great Bustard Group from the beginning – a charity dedicated to reintroduce the Great Bustard back into the UK. The Great Bustard is one of the heaviest flying birds alive today and can be found across Europe but became extinct in this country in 1832.

Set up in 1998, the Group has undertaken much research looking at the feasibility of reintroducing the species to our shores. The conclusions of the work were encouraging and amply demonstrated that the UK offered suitable conditions for Great Bustards without detriment to the donor populations (birds have to be sourced from other countries) or the existing UK ecosystem. Great Bustards have been released under licence in the UK since 2004.

Working with the Group, Bright Seeds has contributed to the project by tailoring brassica-based cover crop mixtures known to be particularly effective for The Great Bustard.

MAIZE FROM BRIGHT SEEDS



With extensive experience of growing grain maize for combining and game cover, the one most important point is that it has to stand until February.

This is achieved by choosing a variety bred for strength to hold the cob up, and not palatability. Forage maize is generally more expensive,

designed for starch, plant digestibility and to last until October. The distinctive difference between forage and grain maize is that grain maize and game cover must not be drilled above 100,000 seeds/ha. This gives the plant more room to grow and provides a shorter and stronger plant, which does not compete for the sky, sunlight and nutrients. Vermin control is essential. The varieties we use are all hybrids (ie: like crossing a spaniel with a labrador they have hybrid vigour!) Sometimes we hear people say **“All maize is the same” which is complete nonsense**. We sell over 45,000 packs per year, which all have unique characteristics:

- For grain production
- White maize for human consumption
- Forage with high starch
- Game cover
- Waxy maize
- Forage with different levels of digestibility
- For forage with medium starches

Remember row widths very important, minimum 15-20”.



Flightpath

Medium height and strong stems will last until February. Many farmers then combine the crop for its hefty grain yield. It can yield between 1-3 tonnes per acre.



Double Barrel

Unique feeding system. Due to our extensive trial work we have developed a perfect mixture for a game maize. Includes

grain maize to stand all season, Foxxi the no cob maize to add strength, sweet corn for nutritious feed, and white maize for its pheasant attracting ability. All of these contribute to a unique game maize package.



Storm

Medium variety. It is fast to establish with good early cob maturity. Excellent all rounder. Can be quite tall under favourable growing conditions.



Top Gun

Two different varieties: one is earlier than the other and combines good early vigour and fast establishment.

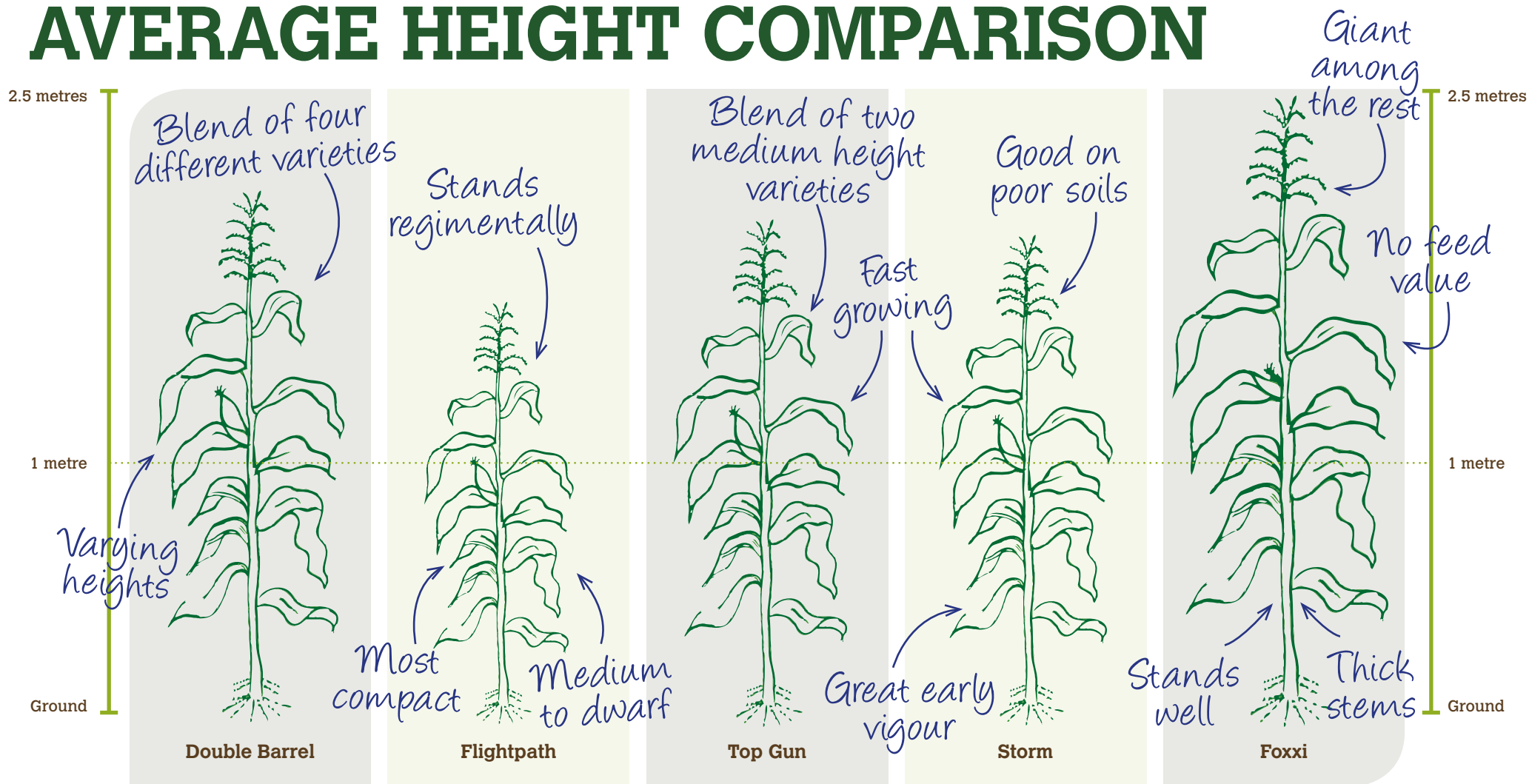
This variety is very good value and particularly suited to heavier soil types.



Foxxi

The big Italian variety with big thick stems that stands throughout the season with lots of leafy cover. Foxxi is a non maturing cob variety and can be sown on its own or in conjunction with other grain varieties.

AVERAGE HEIGHT COMPARISON



Dressings

Mesuroil is a brilliant bird repellent, along with Thiram to stop the seed rotting in the ground. Sonido should be used for planting after grass, where wireworm is a problem in the first and second year.

Variety trials

We trial all our game maize to ensure they perform as you would want. We have been selecting varieties for over 30 years. Remember maize is a semi-tropical plant, so great care should be taken in choosing the right variety, preparing the seed bed and sowing.

Organic seed

We have a selection which has a great track record and good early vigour which really gets going. Don't plant it too deep (max. 2") and watch out for the rooks.

SORGHUM

Sorghum is one of the most traded crops in the world but being semi-tropical crop; very few varieties will produce seed in this country. As a rule sorghum can be grown in areas where maize can be established. Sorghum can be sprayed with some of the same chemicals as maize enabling good weed control. It is very important to remember that sorghum is very slow to establish and does 80% of its growing at the end of July; so please remember not to plough it up. Excellent game cover during winter months.

WARNING: Do remember all sorghums are toxic to animals when plants are young. We notice rabbits and deer don't generally eat it.



Capetown Blend

This is a combination made to last. Medium height sorghum mixed with a dwarf variety. From extensive trials the combination has found to be winter hardy and will create an area for birds to live and feed. Grows to about 4/5ft.

**BEST
SELLER**

Jumbo

Giant sorghum – sorghum x sudan grass hybrid (hence its height) with no food potential. Ideal when sown into maize but keep the seed rate down, otherwise it grows so tall that it can fall over before the end of the season. Well suited to planting up to July for a rescue situation.



Prime Silo

The best standing medium height sorghum. A European variety bred for Northern Europe for grain and feed. It lasts easily through the winter and will grow to about 4ft.

Mr Buster

Grows up to 3ft tall and is an ideal wind break around maize. Sown on its own it can easily be too thick to hold birds. This can be controlled by the seed rate and drilling wider row widths. Sowing through maize can work brilliantly, because as the season goes on, more and more maize will rest on the sorghum giving a tent effect.



Jaguar

An excellent choice for a medium height sorghum. Very compatible with prime silo and excels on poorer soils due to the extra height over Monday and Mr Buster.



Monday

A dwarf variety that originates from America. It grows to approximately 3ft in height and will tiller from the base to create a thick strong plant. It works particularly well as a wind break and/or flushing strips through maize.

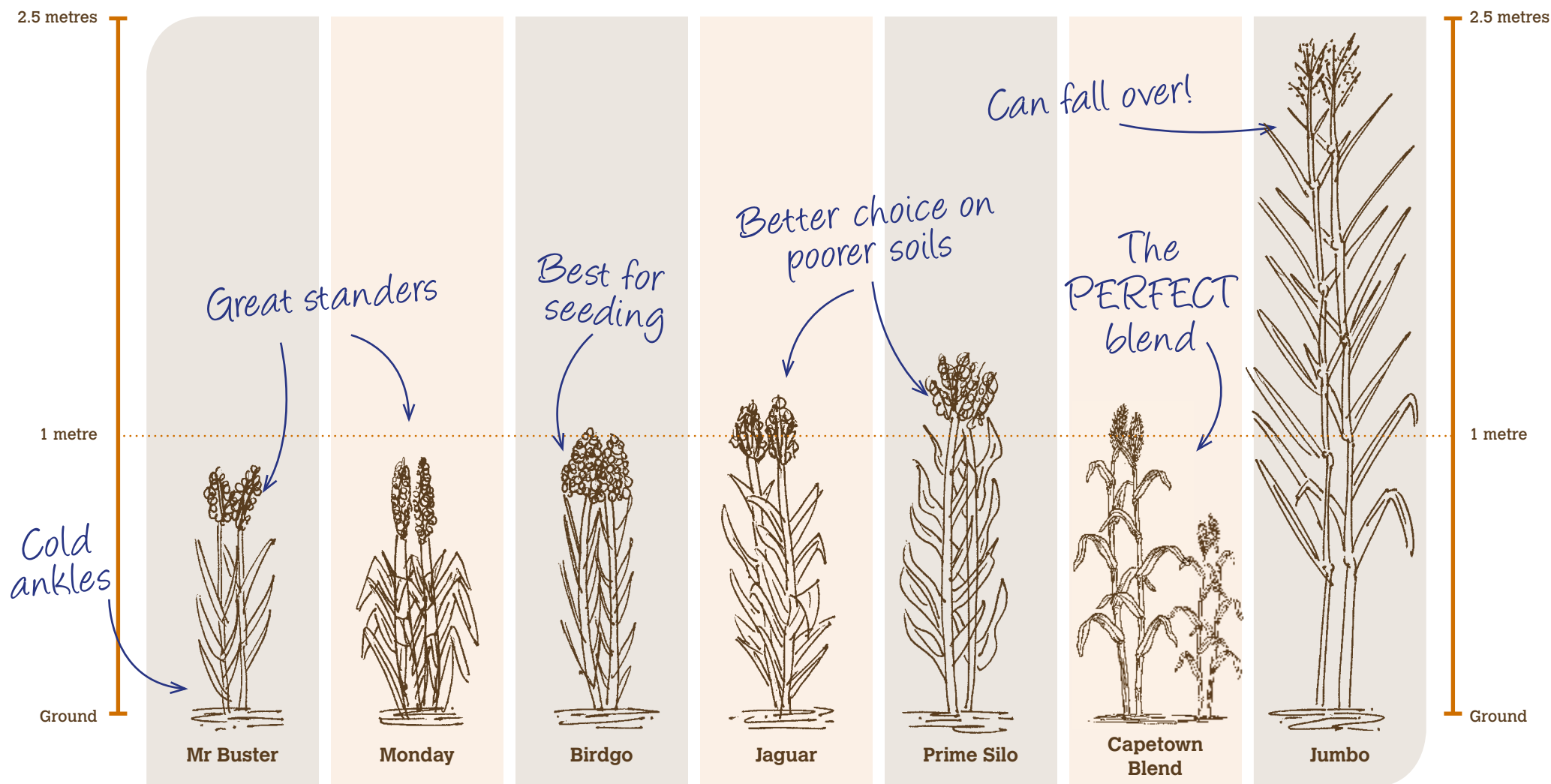
Birdgo grain sorghum

Birdgo is the first grain producing and maturing variety available. It grows to about 3.5ft high, and has a large, full seed head to hold pheasants and partridge. Not only does Birdgo feed well, it stands throughout the whole season.



- Big grain feed yield.
- Medium height for good ground clearance.
- Lasts well into late January.
- Can be used in some stewardship and wild bird mixtures.
- Ideal in a straight or in a blend.
- Similar in height to Mr Buster but not so thick.

AVERAGE HEIGHT COMPARISON



Chemical information

Sorghum offers the grower a great chance to clean up weedy plots. Planted later than maize it means that a stale seed bed can be used. After early cultivation, allow the weeds to grow up and then spray off with glyphosate (Roundup).

Don't cultivate again. Let the weeds die back and drill into the clean surface. Once the sorghum is growing well, control any weeds using a compatible chemical and call the office for more information. Use a wetting agent to help the chemical stick to the plant.

UTOPIA



Utopia has now been established as one of the best late sown game cover crops. Utopia is a unique cross and versatile in many ways.

- Fast establishment like mustard
- With large leaves like kale
- Good frost tolerance
- Ideal for planting in June/July
- Gives cover by November
- Grows twice as fast as rape
- Very strong stems

Plant at a low seed rate like kale in wide rows. This has many uses, and is well worth a try. We think you will be impressed.

1 To get the optimum plant performance drill at the end of June to mid July. Sow 5 kg per ha (2kg per acre)



3 Excellent standing power and can withstand -6°C as seen in January 2010.



2 Remember Utopia is very fast to grow: plant too early and the crop will go to seed.



4 Utopia is traditionally a nomadic grazing crop and has the ability to regrow after being topped or grazed. This is a good weed control tool to remember.





UK Mix proudly sponsors
The National Gamekeepers Organisation.



There are two sides to every story and our new UK mixtures are of no exception.

We are all familiar with the great speed with which Utopia can establish and we all know too well how this single crop can get very tall in good growing conditions. In these situations where Utopia has gone to seed it provides a useful, and in some cases vital, high oil seed feed source for all game and wild birds in the first year of establishment. Unlike kale that provides seeds only in the second year, Utopia can do it in a matter of months from sowing.

With this information we have created two new simple mixtures for both Spring and Autumn sowing, combining our Utopia and Bittern Kale. With the strong combination of speedy establishment and winter hardy kale we are creating the ultimate nurse crop for season long cover that could easily cover two years with the Utopia disappearing in year two leaving the kale well established.

UK mix benefits

- Excellent nurse/companion crop for kale establishment
- High value winter feed source in year one and two
- Money saving two-year cycle
- All season cover and feed for all bird species
- Spring and Autumn sown options

Spring UK mix

75% Bittern Kale
25% Utopia
100%

Autumn UK mix

50% Utopia
50% Bittern Kale
100%



KALE

WARNING: ALWAYS ENSURE TREATED SEED IS BURIED UNDER THE SURFACE

The best varieties offer good winter hardiness, with a dense top cover, but an open canopy underneath, making it ideal for both pheasant and partridge. Kale offers cover only in the first year with cover and feed in the second year. Kale is hungry and it needs plenty of N.P.K. Don't plant too thickly, it doesn't give the plant a chance to develop properly.



BITTERN (Hybrid kale)

This is our tenth year of selling this hybrid kale crossed with a brussel sprout and we have learnt a lot in that time. This variety comes into its own in December and January and puts on a lot of growth from October onwards. It is ideal for two years and has excellent clubroot resistance. Cruiser and untreated seed is available.



CALEDONIAN

Clubroot resistant kale with good cold tolerance enabling cover throughout the season.

Large leaves with medium height and good early vigour.



PROTEOR

Excellent early vigour. Larger leaves, better disease resistance. Very fast growing. Hardy winter kale. Medium height.

We can sell it on its own or it works very well within a mix.

Established as one of our best kinds.



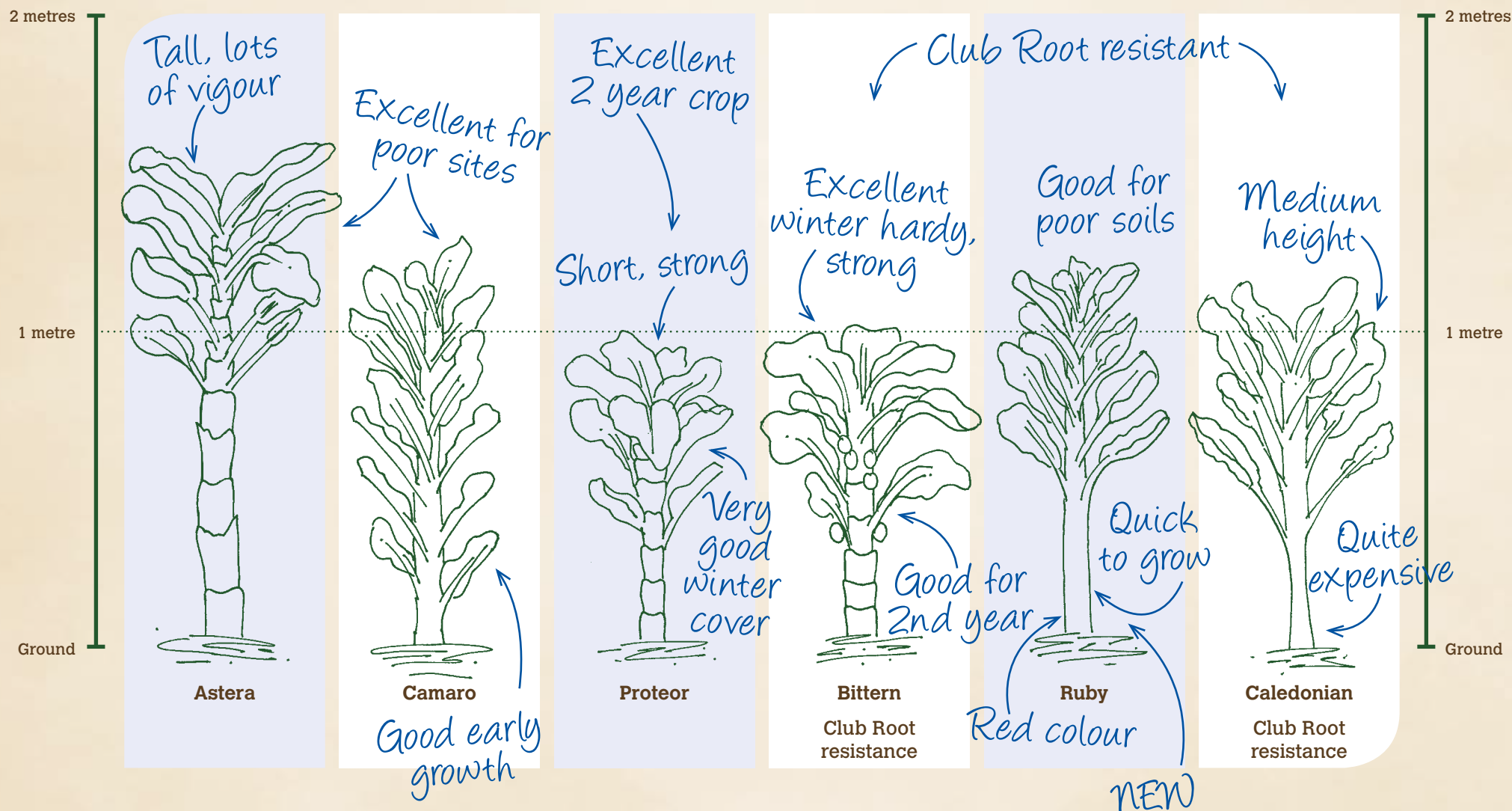
SIX PACK

**BEST
SELLER**

A mixture of some of our best selling varieties from our trial site. Differing growth habits and growth rates will give speedy establishment and good cover at a sensible price. Varietal competition ensures that individual varieties perform to their optimum.



AVERAGE HEIGHT COMPARISON



MILLET SEED

Millet seeds have served man and domestic animals as food since ancient times. The plant is known to have been grown by the lake dwellers of Switzerland in the Stone Age, and it was sown by the Chinese in religious ceremonies as early as 2700 B.C. It was millets, rather than rice, that formed important parts of prehistoric diet.

Millet is definitely the keeper's friend – it is cheap and effective. It grows easily whether shallow drilled or broadcast, so long as the ground is moist. It favours a climate similar to maize and sorghum and makes a good companion for maize, sorghum and kale, adding warmth and feed value.

Millet seed is often accused of containing contaminants like Barn Yard Millet. As a company policy we take this very seriously and scrutinise the seed quality and in some cases refuse seed lots that have been offered to us. We are extremely careful with what goes into our seed mixtures.

Types of millet

There are many different types of millet all with unique benefits:

Red Millet	A distinctive red stem with early seed production
White Millet	Green stems and white seed, later seeding
Yellow Millet	Excellent seed yield, medium height
Japanese Reed	Stiff stemmed, usually used for supporting other millets

Blending millet

By creating blends of these types of millets it is possible to ensure seed shedding throughout the shooting season:

Mixed millet

A mixture of Red and White and Yellow will provide a feeding window from September to December.

Bushman's blend

Contains Red, White and Japanese Reed Millet for support. This blend will provide cover right through until February.

CERTIFIABLE QUALITY

White Millet

Growers Notes

- Sow at 10kg per ha but 12kg can be used for thick flushing points
- Drill or broadcast 0.5 inches deep
- 15-18" drill rows in May to early June
- Use a firm fine seed, and apply herbicides as appropriate
- Apply 150kgs 20:8:14 n.p.k. into the seedbed if mixing. Broadcast at 8kg/ha



Red Millet

MISCANTHUS

PLANTS ARE GROWN TO ORDER – PROVISIONAL BOOKING RECOMMENDED

IT IS VITAL THAT THE PLANTS ARE LOOKED AFTER IN THE FIRST YEAR

Introduction

There is growing interest from the shooting community in the establishment of Miscanthus as a cover crop. Miscanthus is a woody perennial rhizomatous grass originating from Asia. There are well over 70 different strains. Dwarf types can be used as a perennial cover crop.

Variety

Our exclusive variety makes an ideal permanent game cover crop once established. It will provide warmth and shelter and has a thick root ball which increases its standing ability, provides maximum cover and is a suitable height

for the beaters. Once established, Miscanthus will last well over 10 years.

Crop establishment

Miscanthus has been successfully grown up to 1000 ft above sea level. A guide to sowing rate is: 3000 plants per acre as pheasant cover or 1500-2000 plants per acre for partridge. However, planting rate will depend on whether it is being sown as a block or as a barrier for other game crops such as maize.

Soil/seedbed preparation

Miscanthus grows on a wide range of soil types and is tolerant of a wide range of PH but grows best between PH

5.5-7.5. Start with a stale seedbed and spray off any emerging weeds before planting. If available, an application of farm yard manure worked into the soil at preparation time will aid early growth.

Planting in March/April

The Miscanthus we sell is sold by the plant – in plugs it is not available in seed form or by the rhizome.

The incidence of crop failure when using tubers with these dwarf varieties is very high: hence we have developed the system of supplying plantlets approximately 6" high. This gives much better establishment success.

We have found in our trials that protecting the plants with a tree guard kept the weeds at bay but more importantly helped to keep the pests out. It is vital to keep the crop free from weeds in year 1. For specific recommendations consult your advisor.

Long term maintenance

In the third season the Miscanthus can be topped at the end of February/early March, just as the spring growth starts. The debris should be left on the surface which acts as mulch, suppressing weed growth, maintaining moisture and releasing plant nutrients.



GAME COVER STRAIGHTS



Quinoa

The best variety for early vigour and standing, it can produce over one tonne/acre of high protein grain. When planted in a game cover situation this provides an extremely palatable and nutritious food for both game and song birds; a conservationist's heaven. A close relative to the weed fat hen, it will grow in any soil type where this appears. Ideally, quinoa should be mixed with another crop such as kale. When sowing with kale it will need to be mixed if you are sowing under the wild bird cover option, otherwise it can be sown in strips alongside kale. Quinoa is recommended in a number of environmental stewardship situations.

Canary Grass

Another long term cover crop providing a tall tussocky grass up to 6ft. A useful crop for areas where re-planting is impractical or uneconomic such as field margins, set-aside, forest glades or plantations. Canary grass is very versatile having the ability to provide a multi-function cover for nesting, holding and driving. Canary grass should be planted in a minimum 30" rows, ideally 40-60". The growth nature of canary grass means it creeps in the gaps year after year, eventually resulting in it being too thick. If this occurs our advice is to top the canary grass in early spring and with a nap sack sprayer, spray out large lines to clean up the area enabling the canary grass to grow tall creating a canopy and a tunnel. It is a good idea to spin on some lightning mustard to keep the weeds down as canary grass is slow to establish.



Gold of Pleasure (*Camelina sativa*)

Has been grown in Europe for centuries and in the Iron and Bronze Ages it was an important agricultural crop. Before gas and electricity, its oil was used in oil lamps and it's also a common edible product. Gold of Pleasure is an annual or over-wintering herb. It has branched stems that become woody at maturity. Suited to most climates and soil types, it will provide highly nutritious seed well into January.



Linseed

This oilseed crop is normally sown between March – July, depending on location. However both winter and spring varieties are normally available, and dressed seed is preferable. Quick to establish, linseed is a magnet to partridge. Many keepers prefer to use linseed alongside other cover crops.

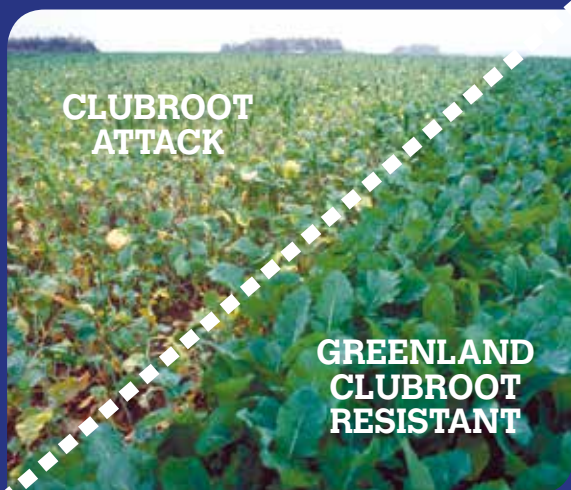




Greenland Rape (clubroot resistant)

A winter-hardy, tall variety of forage rape that is a good alternative to kale. It will grow on the same soil types as kale but at a lower seed cost. It can be sown later and therefore is a good crop to use where seeds have failed or after harvesting cereals.

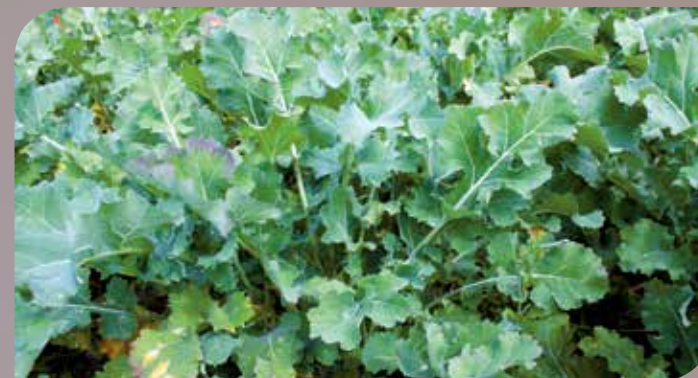
We favour Greenland rape which is fast establishing. It is clubroot resistant and a crop of Greenland will last the season.



Rape/kale hybrids

These rape/kale hybrids have the speed of establishment of rape but the winter hardiness of kale.

- **Hungry Gap**
- **Swift** is a newer variety which is more vigorous and taller than Hungry Gap. It has taken 50 years of breeding to get this improvement and now many keepers are using it.
- **Interval** is a fast growing true hybrid rape/kale. Excellent winter hardiness lasting well into January. Tried and tested over the last 8 years.



Artichokes

Artichokes are an excellent permanent cover for awkward areas such as hillsides, shady areas, heavy soils and where annual spring cultivation is a problem. Artichokes are sown as tubers (like potatoes) and therefore will need to be planted in ridges, and ideally maintained every year. Growing up to 6ft they make a dense cover, which has a tendency to lodge in December, so if the ridges are not maintained you lose your cover.

Chicory

Chicory is a perennial herb used largely for grazing. It is very high in minerals, drought tolerant and has anthelmintic properties (helps to reduce liver fluke and worms in deer and grazing livestock).

If left untouched, chicory will bolt and can grow up to 7ft, providing excellent cover from birds of prey. In winter the tall plants tend to lean over, providing a thick mass of material with a network of tunnels and runways.

It has its uses for temporary hedging. It is easily destroyed and easy to establish. In Norfolk, it is widely used as a windbreak and is planted in narrow strips for temporary hedging after six months growth.





Texel Greens

This is a frost hardy cover crop similar to mustard. It will grow to 150cm in height and will stand all through the season. It establishes fast and can be sown in June/July either into standing cereals, stubbles or where crop failures have occurred. Texel greens are very effective when drilled with kale as they will provide breaks in the canopy for flushing birds.

Buckwheat

Buckwheat produces a conical shaped seed, which has real value as an early feed source in cover crops. Fast establishing and sown in May, it competes well against weeds. Seed maturity will be reached in 10 weeks and the seeds shed over several months, so the stubble can hold pheasant and partridge. Duck and deer also love it and it can be sown alongside ponds and in forest glades to attract these game species as well. Does not like the frost.



Phacelia

Phacelia is used in the UK as a brood rearing crop. Its purple flowers have the tremendous ability to attract a large array of insects. In the summer you can hear a crop of phacelia buzzing. In trials where it has been grown alongside or with kale it produces an excellent cover, and although an annual, due to its high seed drop will re-grow for many years by self seeding. It's not hardy enough to withstand frosts and therefore needs to be sown with other crops if it is being considered as part of your cover plans. Where it has been grown alongside kale we have noticed that the problem of flea beetle is reduced. This could be due to the presence of hover flies in phacelia which feed on flea beetle.



Radical Fodder Radish

Radical is a new variety exclusive to Bright Seeds. It is one of the quickest growing catch crops. A great deal of work has gone into establishing new varieties which will produce cover within 8 weeks with better winter hardiness. Radical is tall with large leaves and plenty of room for birds to shelter underneath. **This is a much underrated crop. It offers clubroot resistance and does not carry the disease.** Can be used in a brassica break.

Tilney and Lightning Mustard

The best varieties for game cover. Mustard is a most versatile crop, very easy to plant either by drilling or broadcasting and then harrowing in. It will easily germinate to form a crop loved by both partridges and pheasants. It is relatively pest free due to the strong flavour, and very resilient to the harsh UK climate by being able to cope with drought and cold. It will stop growing when the temperature falls below zero. Many keepers broadcast Tilney mustard into standing cereals in July to ensure an early cover.



Sweet Clover

This tall growing legume can reach 4-5ft in height and last several years. Its bright yellow flowers will attract an abundance of insects. With strong seedling vigour it is suited to calcareous and neutral soils. It really needs to be established with another crop such as kale which will act as cover in the first year. The sweet clover will come into its own in year 2 or 3.



Mangels

Mangels are one of the oldest types of forage, grown mainly for grazing cattle over the winter. Producing massive tubers they last well into February/March providing a canopy perfect for holding pheasants and partridge. They are used extensively along with fodder beet in the Midlands for wild grey partridge. Sown in the spring, they are fairly easy to grow with good chemical weed control.

Mangels cannot only be used for game cover, but can be grazed or lifted and fed to deer. This can be the best use of a bit of land for shooting whilst producing winter and early spring forage.



Barley, wheat and oats

Barley, wheat and oats can also be incorporated into your game crop plan. Spring varieties of all these cereals are available and are best incorporated into crops such as kale, adding food value. Arable farmers should also be encouraged to leave longer over-wintering stubbles. This approach can single-handedly contribute to increasing grey partridge numbers and also help with holding released French partridge.

Triticale

Of all the cereal crops triticale is probably the best for use in game cover situations. Triticale is a hybrid of wheat and rye and will grow on the poorest of soils with pH as low as 4.9. It is very drought and cold tolerant ensuring that it will last well into the season. Triticale shows some tolerance to rabbit attack. It is an ideal crop where maize is not an option and very good in marginal situations. As well as providing food and cover for game birds, it provides a great habitat for a number of the declining species of songbirds, such as the Corn Bunting.



Sunflowers

With so much focus on the countryside, growing sunflowers should be in every shoot's game plan. They cheer people up, all birds love to eat them and the seed is highly nutritious. Easy to grow, they will tolerate most soil types and drought. The young plants are prone to slug damage and rabbits. Mature, well grown sunflowers will provide plenty of food through the winter months, seed crops of 1 tonne/acre are not unknown. Sunflowers are best grown in combination with other crops. Our varieties are commercial and very high yielding. They have excellent standing, are of medium height. Perfect for use in game cover.

BRIGHT SEEDS TRIAL SITES

Nationwide trials

We have trialled over 150 different crops, both separately and mixed together, and come up with interesting and unexpected combinations which really work. We have been monitoring the crops during the winter to see what holds the birds the best and which crops attract which species. In December it is quite normal to find 50 partridge and 20 pheasants during the day and flocks of small birds flitting in and out.

Apart from our trial site at Swallowcliffe, we have had the opportunity to visit many customers' crops during the season and take note of their comments and react to their requests.

We are pleased to have set up a game cover trial site in conjunction with Newton Rigg college in the heart of Cumbria.



For a quick virtual tour visit: www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVQVQff3phE
Personal tours can be organised on request

THE MIXTURE RANGE

FROM BRIGHT SEEDS



Contact us for the Tractorman's Guide,
visit www.brightseeds.co.uk/tg
or download our app



PERENNIAL MIXTURES



2+ YEARS



DEER GRAZER

MIXTURE

- Puna chicory
- Red clover
- Vetch
- Buckwheat
- Mixed herbs

FEATURES

- Deer will travel for miles to reach this crop
- It doesn't defoliate in winter and remains tasty
- Highly palatable, full of vitamins and minerals
- A natural anthelmintic (wormer)
- Promotes antler development

SOWING RATE

15kg/ha



5+ YEARS



ROYAL MK 3

MIXTURE

- Canary grass
- Reed millet
- Triticale

FEATURES

- Sow April/June
- Works best drilled in wide rows
- Triticale and reed millet provide cover and feed for year 1
- Mow in early spring to encourage new growth and suppress weeds
- Can last 5 years plus when managed correctly

SOWING RATE

40kg/ha



3-4 YEARS



ROYAL MK 4

MIXTURE

- Chicory
- Sweet clover
- Utopia
- Interval

FEATURES

- Sow May/July
- Works best drilled in wide rows
- Provides excellent cover in the first year
- Chicory and Sweet Clover will go on to last 5 years plus
- Mow in early spring to encourage new growth and suppress weeds
- Chicory prefers free-draining soils.

SOWING RATE

10kg/ha



WARNING: Always contact your BASIS qualified agronomist when considering spray usage. Please refer to the latest DEFRA handbook.



ROYAL MK 5

MIXTURE

- Canary grass
- Chicory
- Kale
- Sweet clover
- Cocksfoot

FEATURES

- Sow April/June
- Our most versatile perennial mixture
- Can last 5 years plus when managed correctly
- Works best drilled in wide rows

SOWING RATE

11kg/ha



ROYAL MK 6

MIXTURE

- Chicory
- Canary grass
- Gold of Pleasure
- Bird's-foot-trefoil
- Green fennel
- Ox-eye daisy
- Sweet clover
- Red clover
- Phacelia

FEATURES

- Sow April/June
- Contains flowering species to encourage insects, so this mixture works well for brood-rearing cover
- Drill just under the surface.
- Can last 5 years plus when managed correctly

SOWING RATE

8.75kg/ha



REARING FIELD GRASS

MIXTURE

- Agricultural perennial ryegrass
- Smooth stalked meadow grass
- Creeping red fescue
- Timothy

FEATURES

- Hard wearing
- Good root structure
- Short and tall grass varieties provide varied cover
- Can be autumn sown as well
- Packed in 1 acre packs

SOWING RATE

25kg/ha



SPRING SOWN MIXTURES



2 YEARS



BOOM

MIXTURE

- Linseed
- 6 pack kale
- Bushman millet
- Phacelia

FEATURES

- Kale and linseed are a good combination
- Millet provides extra food throughout the entire autumn
- Phacelia establishes quickly, acting as a nurse crop for kale
- Sow April/June

SOWING RATE

22kg/ha


STEWARDSHIP
COMPLIANT

2 YEARS



COUNTRY PROMISE

MIXTURE

- Linseed
- 6 pack kale (treated)
- Buckwheat
- Sweet clover
- Tilney mustard
- Quinoa
- Millet mix
- Dwarf sorghum
- Phacelia
- Red clover

FEATURES

- Our most popular drill mixture
- Sow from April/May
- A haven for insects
- Will provide a variety of food and cover all season
- Kale is treated against flea beetle
- Drill in 15-20" rows

SOWING RATE

36 kg/ha



2 YEARS



DOUBLE TRIGGER

MIXTURE

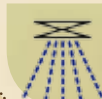
- 6 pack kale
- Quinoa
- Phacelia

FEATURES

- One of our biggest sellers, winter hardy kales can last two years
- Carmen quinoa has good standing and high seed yields
- Phacelia establishes quickly, acting as a nurse crop for kale and protecting against pigeons
- Sow April/June

SOWING RATE

6.5kg/ha



WARNING: Always contact your BASIS qualified agronomist when considering spray usage. Please refer to the latest DEFRA handbook.



2
YEARS

HIGHLAND COVER

MIXTURE

- Linseed
- Tilney mustard
- Bittern kale
- Interval (hybrid rape x kale)
- Sweet clover

FEATURES

- Good early spring growth with some feed value
- Potential for second year cover

SOWING RATE

18kg/ha



2
YEARS



HIGHLAND GAME

MIXTURE

- Triticale
- Bittern or Caledonian kale
- Linseed
- Quinoa
- Forage rape
- Mustard
- Phacelia
- Red clover

FEATURES

- Sow April/May
- Good feed value
- Hardwearing. Withstands extreme and cold climates
- A haven for insects and wildlife

SOWING RATE

50kg/ha



STEWARDSHIP
COMPLIANT



AB9-OP2

PHEASANT AND FINCH

- 5kg Mixed millet
- 12kg Grain sorghum
- 15kg Spring triticale
- 12kg Linseed
- 3.5kg Six pack "kale blend" (treated)
- 1.0kg Quinoa

BEST SELLER

SOWING RATE

48.5kg/ha

This mixture was created to benefit both game and wild birds. It will last up to two years and will give excellent cover for pheasants and partridge. The small wild birds will benefit from the high yielding seed producers in the mix like linseed, quinoa, triticale and all millets. Dove millet in particular will last into January producing feed in December along with the red and white millet which spread their seeding from September to December.

2 years



STEWARDSHIP
COMPLIANT



RADICAL PHEASANT AND FINCH

AB9-OP2

- 5kg Mixed millet
- 12kg Grain sorghum
- 16.5kg Spring triticale
- 12kg Linseed
- 3.5kg Radical fodder radish
- 1kg Quinoa



replacing the kale with Radical fodder radish we have eliminated the risk of clubroot and other brassica disease build-up. Rather than growing continuous kale in Pheasant & Finch we recommend growing this version once in every three years.

SOWING RATE

50kg/ha

This is a 1 year version of the standard Pheasant & Finch which, in

Using Radical in the mix instead of kale brings a faster establishment and good winter cover but will only last 1 year before dying back. 1 year

AB9-OP2



WILDFLOWER PHEASANT AND FINCH

- 5kg Mixed millet
- 12kg Grain sorghum
- 15kg Spring triticale
- 10.5kg Linseed
- 3.5kg Bittern kale (treated)
- 1.0kg Quinoa
- 1.0kg Corn cockle
- 0.75kg Phacelia
- 0.25kg Crimson clover
- 1.0kg Vetch

This carries all the benefits of the standard Pheasant & Finch mix but with the added value of the colourful flowering species. This not only looks attractive throughout the summer but includes nectar producing flowers for insects subsequently feeding chicks.

2 years

SOWING RATE

50kg/ha



STEWARDSHIP
COMPLIANT



SUMMER SOWN MIXTURES



AUTUMN PROMISE

MIXTURE

- Buckwheat
- Mustard
- Texel greens
- Forage rape
- Early English vetch
- Tyfon
- Interval (rape x kale)
- Utopia
- Radical fodder radish

FEATURES

- Mustard and buckwheat give quick early cover
- Tyfon and texel greens provide summer cover
- Forage rape, Utopia and Goblin provide cover from Sept to Jan
- Treated against flea beetle
- Ideal for patching up and replenishing second year covers

SOWING RATE

22kg/ha



KEEPER'S RELIEF

MIXTURE

- Lightning mustard
- Greenland rape
- Radical radish
- Utopia
- Interval (rape x kale)
- Vollenda stubble turnip

FEATURES

- Economic and easy to use
- Broadcast into standing cereal or into an established game crop
- Cover from August all season
- Good floor cover with some height

SOWING RATE

10kg/ha



BRIGHTS WEED BUSTER RANGE

Plots often build a heavy weed burden over time and getting a crop established can be challenging if you have no spray options. Bright Seeds has developed a compressive range of herbicide friendly mixtures to help you get the best from your wild bird seed and/or game cover crops.

1
YEAR

BROAD BUSTER

MIXTURE

- Bushman's Blend millet
- Sorghum
- Linseed
- Triticale
- Wheat

FEATURES

- An annual mixture designed to give excellent post-emergent broad-leaved weed control.
- Post-emergent chemical can also be compatible with other game crops, including maize.
- Very high feed value.
- Sorghum is included to enhance the winter standing potential.
- Sow in May/June, it is important to ensure the soil is warm enough before drilling.

SOWING RATE

50kg /ha

1
YEAR

EARLY BIRD MIX

MIXTURE

- Wheat
- Triticale
- Linseed
- Barley

FEATURES

- Early sown
- Great early cover
- Excellent feed source

SOWING RATE

75kg/ha

1
YEAR



EASY GROW

MIXTURE

- Sunflowers
- Triticale
- Grain sorghum
- Millet

FEATURES

- This mixture looks impressive, and is also tolerant of some pre-emergent chemicals.
- Offers fantastic game-holding cover, with both feed and cover.
- Pre-emergent spray can control a wide spectrum of weeds.

SOWING RATE

48kg/ha

These mixtures have been carefully put together to tolerate chosen herbicide chemicals.

Please contact the office for more information.

2
YEARS

GRASS BUSTER

MIXTURE

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| • Bittern kale (treated) | • Utopia |
| • Kale (untreated) | • Radical radish |
| • Gold of Pleasure | • Lightning mustard |
| • Interval | • Phacelia |
| | • Linseed |

FEATURES

- Will last for two years if managed correctly.
- Excellent options for controlling grass weeds post-emergence.
- Provides a brassica-based cover, ideal for flushing and holding.
- This mixture has a wide drilling window, with successful crops being established from early May through until early August.

SOWING RATE

20kg/ha

ENHANCED WILD BIRD MIXTURES

These mixtures are designed to provide a sustained source of food during winter months for targeted game and wild birds. A specified mixture or seed-bearing crop is sown and established in field margin strips and/or blocks within arable fields.

Enhanced bird seed mixtures, suitable for HLS and ELS. Please check with your local adviser before sowing. Each mixture has been carefully put together by Bright Seeds and is supported by Natural England, RSPB and the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust.

Note: for the best result make sure the mix is sown away from field boundaries.



AB9•OP2

Corn Bunting Nesting

(Nesting and feed)

- 30kg Spring barley
- 10kg Spring triticale
- 6kg Mixed millet
- 4kg Mustard

50kg/ha

AB9•OP2

Autumn Corn Bunting

(Establish August annually)

- 30kg Winter barley
- 12kg Winter triticale
- 15kg Winter oats
- 3kg Sparta forage rape

60kg/ha | For best results drill this mix in 10-15" rows

AB9•OP2

Spring Corn Bunting

(Establish March – April annually)

- 22.5kg Oats
- 22.5kg Triticale
- 22.5kg Barley
- 6kg Linseed
- 0.75kg Early red clover
- 0.75kg Late red clover

75kg/ha | NB. Linseed could be substituted for rape or mustard

AB16•OP2

Autumn Bumble Bird

(Establish August annually)

- 15kg Winter triticale
- 15kg Winter barley
- 2kg Fodder radish
- 2kg Burseem clover
- 1kg Bird's-foot-trefoil
- 3kg Kale
- 1kg Phacelia
- 5kg Vetch
- 0.25kg Knapweed
- 0.25kg Wild carrot
- 0.25kg Ox-eye Daisy

44.75kg/ha | For best results drill this mix in 15" rows

Right: Finches in wild bird seed crop
Winterbourne Downs © Patrick Cashman RSPB

AB9•OP2

Tree Sparrow

(Establish May annually)

- 15kg Spring triticale
- 12kg Mixed millet
- 10kg Spring wheat
- 3.5kg Quinoa
- 1.0kg Buckwheat
- 1.0kg Gold of pleasure
- 0.5kg Phacelia

43kg/ha | For best results drill in 15 inch rows



AB9

Wild bird cereal mix

(Annual)

- 17.5% Tall rye
- 20% Spring triticale
- 20% Spring barley
- 20% Spring wheat
- 10% Spring oats
- 10% Linseed
- 2.5% Gold of pleasure
- **100% 74kg/ha**

This mixture is a cereal feed mix, excellent for all partridge and wild birds. This combination will not give much cover throughout the winter but will hold winter feed.

Comprehensive mix

This mix has been designed to cater for many different bird species covering winter feed and nesting year round for all game and wild birds

- 2.5kg Mustard
- 10kg Spring wheat
- 8kg Mixed millet
- 10kg Spring triticale
- 10kg Spring barley
- 2kg Buckwheat
- 1kg Fodder radish
- 1kg Gold of pleasure
- 0.5kg Phacelia
- 0.5kg Quinoa

45.5kg/ha | For best results drill in 10" rows

AB9•OP2

AB9•OP2

Yellowhammer, Reed Bunting, Corn Bunting & Linnet

(Establish May annually)

- 2.5kg Mustard
- 12.5kg Spring wheat
- 10kg Mixed millet
- 10kg Spring triticale
- 15kg Spring barley
- 2.5kg Fodder radish

52.5kg/ha | For best results drill in 10" rows

AB9•OP2

Grey Partridge

(Establish May – June annually)

- 3.5kg 6 pack kale (treated)
- 4kg Quinoa
- 5kg Mixed millet
- 15kg Spring triticale
- 1.5kg Gold of pleasure
- 2.0kg Linseed

31kg/ha | For best results drill in 15-20" rows



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP MIXTURES

Designed for game & wildlife

2-4 metre margin mix for heavy soils

- 20% Timothy
- 15% Meadow fescue
- 15% Red fescue
- 14% Smooth stalked meadow grass
- 6% Crested dogtail
- 15% Sheep's fescue
- 15% Common bent
- **100% 20kg/ha**

This mixture is best suited to heavy soils and includes low maintenance grass species.

2-4 metre margin mix for calcareous soils

- 20% Meadow fescue
- 20% Sheep's fescue
- 15% Red fescue
- 15% Common bent
- 5% Crested dogtail
- 5% Cocksfoot
- 15% Smooth stalked meadow grass
- 5% Timothy
- **100% 20kg/ha**

This mixture is best suited to calcareous soils. The main difference is a larger inclusion of cocksfoot which likes this soil type.



AB1

Nectar flower mixture

- 0.5% Common knapweed
- 20% Red clover
- 6% Crimson clover
- 20% Vetch
- 22% Sainfoin
- 6% Alsike clover
- 17.5% Lucerne
- 8% Bird's-foot-trefoil
- **100% 15kg/ha**

Sowing this Nectar flower mixture will boost the availability of natural food sources for nectar feeding insects like butterflies and bumble bees.

Main image (left): Nectar flower mixture

AB15

Ryegrass & legume (2 year)

- 66% Intermediate or late perennial ryegrass
- 15% Red clover
- 10% Common vetch
- 7% Bird's-foot-trefoil
- 2% Common or black knapweed
- **100% 30kg/ha**

Grass margin, field corner and conservation mix including some wild flowers

AB8

- 15% Crested dogstail
- 20% Creeping red fescue
- 15% Smooth stalked meadow grass
- 15% Common bent
- 15% Hard fescue
- 5% Small timothy
- 2% Black medic
- 1% Knapweed
- 1% Ox-eye daisy
- 1% Selfheal
- 2% Red clover
- 1% Common sorrel
- 2% Bird's-foot-trefoil
- 3% Sainfoin
- 1% Yarrow
- 1% Wild carrot
- **100% 20kg/ha**

This is an excellent combination of grass species with a small content of wild flowers. It is highly beneficial to all ground nesting birds and insect species. This mixture will give a good variation of height and feed for wild birds and brood rearing.



AB1



Turtle Dove mixture

- 25% Early vetch
- 20% Bird's-foot-trefoil
- 15% White clover
- 20% Black medick
- 15% Red clover
- 5% Fumitory
- **100% 10kg/ha**

Herb rich meadow grass

GS4

- 2.5kg Int dip perennial premium
- 6kg Late perennial (2 varieties)
- 1.5kg Meadow fescue
- 1.25kg Timothy
- 0.5kg Cocksfoot
- 0.5kg Medium white clover
- 0.5kg Small white clover tribute
- 0.5kg Red clover
- 0.25kg Bird's-foot-trefoil
- 0.1kg Chicory
- 0.05kg Yarrow
- 0.15kg Burnet
- 0.10kg Sheep's parsley
- 0.10kg Ribwort plantain
- **30kg/ha**



Beetle bank

AB3

- 40% Cocksfoot
- 30% Red fescue
- 30% Timothy
- **100% 20kg/ha**

Tussocky grass mix, attracting insects.

THE FEED RANGE BY BRIGHT SEEDS

Game Rearing

Rearing and releasing game birds requires a high quality grower crumb and pellet to give chicks and poults the best possible start.

Bright Seeds work closely with **Marsden Game Feeds** to provide customers with products to enable young birds to have a high health status while achieving desired growth rates.

Please call to discuss specific needs.



Supplementary Feeding

AB12, OB3, HF24, EF23, OF23

Despite developing wild bird seed mixtures to meet the needs of the modern farmer and keeper, songbirds often suffer mortalities due to lack of food between December and the end of April. This is commonly known as **the hungry gap**.

Those in stewardship schemes **ELS, OELS, HLS & CS** have the chance to supplementary feed songbirds during this period by using a specialist small seed and wheat mixture. Bright Seeds **Winterkeep** range offers a number of options to comply with these schemes.

Product can be supplied in bulk or 20kg bags. It is also available as "full" or "pre" mixtures where the grower adds farm saved wheat and/or OSR.



Winter Game Feed

Milder autumns coupled with pressure to produce larger volumes of better quality birds on shoot days has heightened the need to feed more than just straight wheat to hold and move birds around the shoot.

To this end, Bright Seeds has worked with Gamekeepers throughout the UK, whether on small farm or large commercial shoots, to develop its **Easykeep** range of **Ground Mix** and **Liquid** additive.

As well as **holding pellets** to mix with your own wheat - which can be hand, hopper or spin fed - Bright Seeds also supply **Cut Maize** and **Whole Maize** in bulk or 20kg bags.



family business with a professional approach

BRIGHT SEEDS

www.brightseeds.co.uk
Tel: 01722 744494

ORGANIC GAME COVER MIXTURES

2 year organic cover

5kg Untreated kale
5kg Organic sweet clover
12kg Organic vetch
22kg/ha

A mixture designed to last 2 years with feed value and nitrogen fixer.

Organic maize

Varieties available that are 100% organic, available on request.

Organic safety catch (summer sown)

5kg Organic mustard
1.5kg Organic fodder radish
1.5kg Organic forage rape
2kg Utopia (untreated)
5kg Organic buckwheat
5kg Organic English vetch
20kg/ha

A late sown game cover designed to go in after harvest or mid summer. It is fast growing, smothers weeds quickly and will provide season-long cover for pheasants and partridge.

Organic seeds available

- Mustard
- Fodder radish
- Forage rape
- Buckwheat
- Vetch
- Sweet clover
- Triticale
- Phacelia
- Maize
- Red clover

www.brightseeds.co.uk

or call **01722 744494**



FARMLAND BIRDS FOUND IN OUR CROPS

Here are some of the farmland bird species found enjoying the seed rich plants carefully put together into Bright Seeds' wild bird mixtures. Some species have their very own tailored blends and some are general and cater for all beak sizes and accessibility. Many of our farmland birds are in decline and have been since 1970 with the start of the intensive farming style which removed hedges and cleaned up 'weeds'. By sowing these species specific mixtures, blends like Pheasant and Finch and our comprehensive mixtures, we can try and help these birds survive the winter months to restore the bird population.



Corn Bunting

Resident all year round, forming flocks in the winter, and nesting on the ground. Eats seeds and insects from open farmland, yards and bare ground, and stubbles, but have been in decline because of agricultural intensification. Specialist Corn Bunting mixtures are available. See page 32.



Goldfinch

Predominantly seed eaters rather than insect. Will be found anywhere relatively open with scattered trees and bushes. Traditionally a farmland bird, but due to lack of seed, has become a regular visitor to semi-urban gardens. A regular visitor to wild bird seed mixtures.



Brambling

A winter visitor looking for seeds: likes beech woodland and nearby farmland fields. Keeps close to other finches in roosting flocks, and could be mistaken for a chaffinch. Feeds on the small seeds in some wild bird mixtures.



Chaffinch

Resident all year in woodlands, hedgerows, fields, parks and gardens across the UK – therefore a little more resilient than other farmland birds. Mostly a seed eater therefore can be commonly seen in most wild bird mixtures.



Greenfinch

Nests in a garden conifer, or feasts on black sunflower seeds. It is a regular garden visitor, able to take advantage of food in rural and urban areas. Greenfinch populations declined in the late 1970s. Found in wild bird seed mixtures, especially those containing sunflowers.



Grey Partridge

Our native partridge, declining due to deterioration of its nesting/rearing cover. A traditional lowland arable bird, can be found on slightly higher, wetter ground. Nests in tussocky grass margins, regularly feeds on seeds provided by wild bird mixtures. Special Grey Partridge mixtures are available. See page 33.



Dunnock/ Hedge Sparrow

Eats insects and seeds provided by mixture edges, scrub and hedge, and broadleaved woodland. Keeps close to cover. Found in and around wild bird mixtures. Suffers from the "hungry gap" in February and March.



Lesser Redpoll

Rarer than they were, these are predominantly woodland birds which utilise edges, scrub and damp areas for seed. Likes immature woodland, especially alder and birch.



Linnet

A versatile bird looking for weed seeds and insects on closely grazed ground, heathland, rough ground and scrub, farmland edges and hedges, coastal grassland and gardens. These birds flock in winter and large numbers can be seen in wild bird seed mixtures.



Reed Bunting

Predominantly a farmland bird. Eats seeds and insects in wet soil areas, but can come into drier fields and gardens where there are perches.



Tree Sparrow

Found in edges and hedges all year round, sometimes in quite large winter flocks, but increasingly rare. Numerous reasons suggested for decline but lack of sources of winter food of a sizeable nature eg. stubble fields, thought to be a main factor. Specialist Tree Sparrow mixtures are available. See page 33.



Turtle Dove

Migratory summer bird, which likes woodland edges, hedges and open ground with scrub patches. Looks for seeds in woodland and agricultural edges, and open land. Due to lack of food struggles to breed successfully (feeds on weed seeds). Specialist Turtle dove mixtures available. See page 35.



Twite

Lives on the uplands of northern England, Wales and Scotland in summer and moves to coastal areas, including salt marsh, in the winter. Feeds on seeds from weeds found on short ground, such as the daisy, bistort and fat hen family. Will use wild bird seed mixtures over winter.



Yellowhammer

Found across the UK (except some uplands and isles) in open countryside with bushes, scrub and hedges. In decline. This is thought to be due to winter food availability – they need seed and insects. Commonly uses wild bird seed mixtures, specialist mixtures are available to sow. See page 33.

WILDFLOWERS

AND BRUSH HARVESTED SEED

Growing wildflowers is a great way to naturally brighten up unused areas of a farm, estate or garden. We have a full range of commercial mixtures available along with brush harvested seed from local native seed stocks. Most wildflower mixtures planted will last a lifetime with a little bit of careful management. The cornfield annuals will last only 1 to 2 years but bring a mass of brightly coloured flowers providing much needed pollen and nectar to a full range of flower-loving insects supporting bird life.

Our brush harvested seed is responsibly taken with our own machine from local well established meadows or downland. The seeds taken off the plants are all different sizes so it does make the sample very hard to regulate, therefore the sample will come with small bits of stalk and grass stems. Because of this the seed is best broadcasted with a little sand rather than sown through a conventional seed drill.



Blaze is a blend of extremely colourful annual flowers perfect for brightening up areas of the farm, estate or large garden. With their striking mass of flower heads they attract many different insects and invertebrates. It never fails to impress.

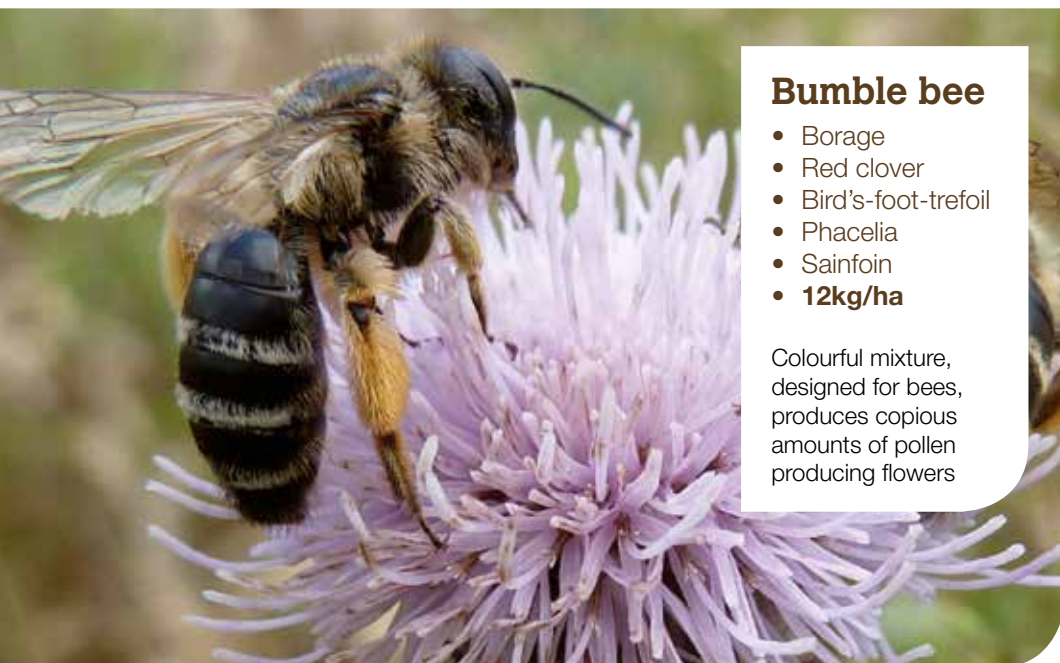
Sown in early spring these colourful flowers will start producing at the end of June and flower through to October. Although most of the species are annuals, this mix could last up to three years depending on how they are looked after. They tend to grow on most productive soils but would prefer not to be in shade.



Mixtures available

All of the mixtures below come as an 80% low maintenance grass and 20% wild flowers, the correct ratio for a balanced meadow. Can be offered as 100% wildflowers.

- Calcareous soils
- Cornfield annuals
- Economy
- Pond edge and riverside
- Bumblebee
- Hedgerow and semi-shade
- Heavy soils and damp soils
- Shaded area
- Old English meadow
- Woodland clearing



Bumble bee

- Borage
- Red clover
- Bird's-foot-trefoil
- Phacelia
- Sainfoin
- **12kg/ha**

Colourful mixture, designed for bees, produces copious amounts of pollen producing flowers

Brush harvesting

We offer a brush harvesting and seed cleaning service for individual customers and we have a full and developing range of local native mixtures from different soil types including some wetland meadows.



The Bright Seeds
Guide Book

**Wildflowers
and grass mixtures**

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- Grass Mixture Range
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