



RE:SEED

Your Seasonal Newsletter

Summer/Autumn 2023

BUILDING RESILIENCE WITH MULTI-SPECIES LEYS

If there is one thing the last two seasons have highlighted, then building resilience in our leys has to be a top contender. Farmers and growers are looking towards multi-species leys as a solution to drought and flooding, but what else can they offer?

Multi-species leys are no new thing, and most farms are already growing and utilising them to some degree, but it is fair to say interest in broadening the species grown is increasing season on season. Some growers are looking to build resilience in their leys to help avoid burn-off during dry spells or to withstand over winter flooding. Others are looking to improve soil structure and animal health as well as reducing inputs from fertilisers and pesticides.

With so many different options to choose from we have short listed a few of our favourite mixtures below which we will explore in a little more detail.

HERBAL LEY

Commonly a mixture of different grass species with legumes and herbs which offer benefits to stock, soil and the environment alike. The blend of grasses will provide good grazing cover and resilience with drought tolerant species such as cocksfoot, complemented by timothy and meadow fescue which can withstand up to 6 weeks of winter flooding while dormant. Legumes boost protein in the forage as well as fixing nitrogen available not only to themselves but also neighbouring plants. The wide range of herbs provide an abundance of benefits to the entire system. These types of leys are best suited to rotational grazing systems as opposed to set stocking, but with good management they can be utilised on most farms.

Some highlights include:

- Chicory - deep rooted, high protein/mineral content, anthelmintic properties
- Yarrow - frost tolerant, improves circulation, drought resistant
- Sheeps Parsley - high in Iron & Vit C, highly palatable, winter hardy
- Sainfoin - anthelmintic properties, condensed tannins aid protein digestion
- Burnet - wide grazing window, reduces scour, winter hardy

HERBAL ADD PACK

Introduce the natural benefits of multi-species herbal mixtures into your grazing leys with our Add Packs. They can be overseeded into existing leys, added to any of our standard mixtures or sown as a pure stand.

RED TURBO

This high yielding, high protein mixture contains Italian and Hybrid ryegrass with both crimson and red clover. An abundance of quality high protein forage can be achieved for 2+ years with the potential for reduced N applications. Soil will be left if good heart, due to nitrogen fixation.

INCENTIVES

Schemes are now running in both Wales and England to fund the establishment of multi-species leys. We have compliant mixtures available and can offer advice on establishment and management.

PRODUCT NEWS...

In addition to Maxicrop Triple we now stock Maxicrop Xtra-Fol and Maxicrop Concentrate.

XTRA-FOL contains 8:8:7 NPK, Sulphur, Trace Elements and Maxicrop seaweed extract. With the same bio stimulant effects as triple, for use where a larger dose of critical plant nutrients are required.

CONCENTRATE is a pure seaweed extract bio stimulant suitable for use on organic and conventional farms.



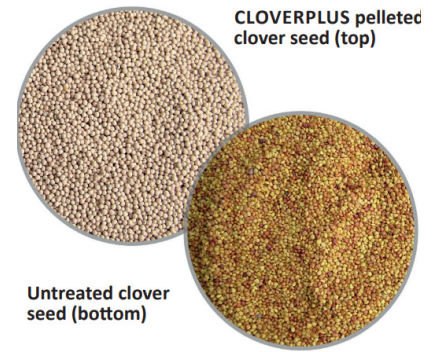
PUT SOME POWER BACK INTO YOUR LEYS

CLOVERPLUS PELLETED WHITE CLOVER BLEND



CLOVERPLUS is the perfect product to add white clover into an existing grass ley. Very often grass mixtures are sown without clover or the clover has been taken out with the control of broad-leaved herbicides. Cloverplus is a blend of white clover varieties, coated in a pellet and treated with HEADSTART® GOLD. The increased bulk density makes drilling and broadcasting easier and the seed treatment speeds up germination.

White clover is an excellent source of both protein and minerals for all livestock. This high feed quality combined with high digestibility has been shown to lead to improved intakes and animal performance. White clover is also capable of fixing over 180kg/Ha of Nitrogen reducing the need for artificial fertilisers.



Untreated clover seed (bottom)

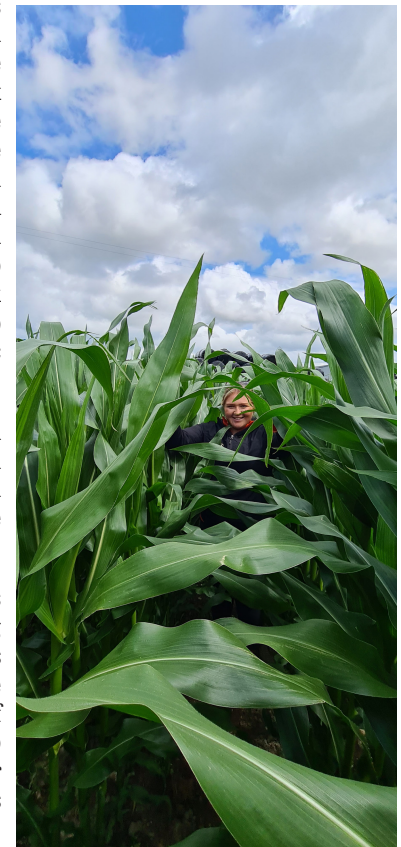
CLOVERPLUS pelleted clover seed (top)

TREADING THE TRAMLINES...

To quote Jimmy Greaves, this season really has been a game of two halves, or perhaps better make that three! The prolonged wintery showers continued late into April delaying spring drilling for many, then just like that (Tommy Cooper), someone turned the tap off and we entered a late spring drought. This six-week period couldn't have come at a worse time for spring sown cereals and by the time we saw some moisture plants were at full stem extension. Autumn sown crops, however, have done considerably better. Reported harvest data confirms high straw and grain yields and barley samples were strong (at time of print no wheat had been combined). Extended weather patterns seem to be more commonplace highlighting the need for optimum plant nutrition and input timing. Our BASIS and FACTS qualified advisors can help you get the most out of your crops and balance input costs with returns. We stock and advise on cutting edge plant protection products and specialist nutrition. We also offer advise on IPM, ICM and nutrient planning for both conventional and organic systems.

Despite the dry conditions this spring, maize sown in early May found enough moisture and once the rain finally arrived growth accelerated rapidly. Weed control was compromised early on, with late flushes of red shank, fat hen and bind weed testing chemistry. However, the rapid growth of the crops got away from all but the trickiest of areas resulting in some very healthy looking crops of maize.

Grassland weed control has been extremely effective this year. Soil moisture reserves coupled with warm conditions early on pushed grass weeds forward, optimising chemical control methods. A second chance for any missed fields looks promising this autumn and docks in cutting fields are proving very receptive to chemical control. We also have a range of clover safe herbicides in store which can offer acceptable levels of control when applied at the correct timings. Why not take the opportunity to clean up your leys while boosting yields with the addition of a crop health pack alongside your herbicide? We have a range of products to help increase root biomass, shoot numbers and chlorophyll production.



COMPANY NEWS...

Earlier on in the year we attended the NSA Sheep Event in Aberhafesp which was a great way to kick off the 2023 shows. As we come into August, we see the start of the local agricultural shows. We will be attending some great shows this year: Trefeglwys, 5th August; Llanfyllin, 12th August; Berriew, 26th August and Llanfair Caereinion, 2nd September. We look forward to seeing many of you there, a great opportunity to come for a chat, discuss any future re seeding plans, enjoy a light refreshment with us and pick up a catalogue and newsletter. Why not take part in our 'Guess the Seed' competition for your chance to win a prize?

As many of you will know, our seed and agronomy business has grown in recent years and at the beginning of July we decided to cease trading in animal feed. It was a pleasure to have been For Farmers merchants for so many years and we were proud to stock the highest quality feed rations.

Looking forward, we are excited to focus and expand on the core aspects of our seed and agronomy business.

Please Note: We will be closed on Thursday 17th August from 12pm and all day Friday 18th August for a family wedding.

