Handbook

Recommended Grass and Clover Lists for England and Wales

2022/23

NIAB BGS bspb PROMOTING SEED INNOVATION AHDB HYBU CIG CYMRU

Recommended Grass and Clover Lists – who are they for?

Knowing the performance characteristics of grass and clover is immensely useful for grassland producers. It allows appropriate selection of varieties that will perform well under a particular system.

The Recommended Grass and Clover Lists for England and Wales are drawn up after rigorous testing for attributes such as yield, persistency, quality and disease resistance. The data come from trials carried out by the NIAB-TAG, Barenbrug, IBERS, DLF Seeds, DSV, AFBI and SRUC, and are evaluated by a panel of experts.

The scheme has changed – it is no longer partially funded by merchants, which means the data are available to all. The testing is funded by plant breeders through the British Society of Plant Breeders and the ruminant levy boards Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board and Hybu Cig Cymru. Herbage trials are organised and coordinated by the NIAB on behalf of BSPB.

There are three steps to making the best use of this booklet:

1. Is it on the list? – when looking at mixtures check that the varieties are listed in this booklet

2. Is it right for the job? – make sure the type of grasses or clovers listed in a mixture are fit for the purpose

3. Which varieties fit the job? – refinements can be made to mixtures in consultation with your merchant

This booklet is produced for use in England and Wales. Farmers in Scotland should consult the Scottish recommended grass and clover varieties list.

Why are grass and clover important?

The cost of production per litre of milk or kg of liveweight gain is a major consideration for all livestock producers. One of the best ways to reduce costs is to produce more forage on the farm rather than buying feed in.

There is huge potential on grassland farms in England and Wales to increase the amount and quality of the grass and clover that is grown and eaten.

As few as 1 in 20 varieties of ryegrasses tested will actually make it to full recommendation on the list

Few farmers these days would want to use bull or ram genetics from the 1950s in their livestock breeding, yet they continue to use outdated varieties in their grassland.

By relying on old varieties, farmers are missing out on millions of pounds worth of investment made by plant breeders to produce new grasses that are far superior in important aspects such as yield, digestibility and spring growth.

Is it time to reseed?

The percentage of ryegrass (or other sown species) in a sward is a better indicator of a need for reseeding than the age of the ley.

Pulling up a handful of grass plants allows farmers to assess how much perennial ryegrass (PRG) there is by looking for a red base to their stem.

Weed grasses, such as annual meadow grass, take every opportunity to invade sown pastures and do not have red stem bases. Weed grass species yield poorly, are of poor feed quality and do not respond well to nitrogen.

The ideal grass/clover balance across the grass growing season is 30% white clover to 70% grass – but clover content can vary widely between and within fields.

Reseeding or over-seeding allows farmers to increase the performance of their swards by sowing improved grass and clover varieties that match individual field objectives – i.e. long term grazing or shorter term cutting.

Consider reseeding if there is less than 50% sown species in the ley

Which type of grass?

Mixtures

In GB farmers tend to reseed with a mixture of different grasses and clover, rather than sowing a single variety.

Mixtures can produce yield benefits when compared to the same varieties sown individually. They also allow farmers to capitalise on the strengths of different species. For instance the digestibility of Perennial ryegrass (PRG) can be combined with the yield of a hybrid ryegrass (HRG) and the superior nutrient value of white clover in one field.

Heading Dates

Grasses are classified according to heading date – which is the date on which 50% of the ears in fertile tillers have emerged.

Early varieties of ryegrass reach their heading date in the first two weeks of May; intermediate varieties head during the second half of May and late varieties reach this stage during the first two weeks of June.

In general, early heading varieties grow earlier in the spring, are more erect, tiller less freely and are easier to cut for conservation than later heading varieties, which tend to be more prostrate and persistent and give good mid-season growth.

Perennial, Italian and Hybrid ryegrasses

Ryegrass is the most important sown grass grown in GB due to its productivity and suitability to the climate and farming systems.

Perennial ryegrasses (PRG) produce persistently good yields of high quality forage. Italian ryegrass (IRG) yields higher than PRG but has poor persistence.

Hybrid ryegrass (HRG) is a cross between perennial and Italian varieties, combining the strengths of the two parent species, e.g. the sward density of PRG and the out-of-season growth of IRG.

For 2 year leys – use tetraploid and diploid Italian ryegrasses
For 3-4 year leys – use hybrid ryegrass and early perennial ryegrasses
For long term leys – use intermediate and late perennial ryegrasses.

Choosing the right type of grass

Ryegrass

Each type of grass has different growth and quality characteristics. When reseeding it is important to select the most appropriate grasses and clovers for the situation and to meet the objectives set for each field.

Perennial ryegrass

- Most effort by plant breeders has been concentrated on PRG
- Establishes rapidly, even from autumn sowing
- High yields in first harvest year
- High sugar content makes it good for silage-making
- Produces dense and persistent swards so useful for long term leys and establishing permanent pasture

Good for all types of management e.g. silage or hay production, extensive or intensive grazing

Italian ryegrass

- Produces heavy crops of silage or hay
- Useful for short term leys of one to three years
- Long growing season gives opportunity for 'early-bite' grazing followed by leafy hay or silage cut

Good for cutting, but can also be used for intensive spring grazing

Hybrid ryegrass

- Better ground cover and longer lived than IRG
- Good winter hardiness and disease resistance
- Mid-season digestibility better than IRG, but poorer than PRG
- First year yields lower than IRG, but yield improves in second and third year
- More drought resistant than IRG

Good for silage production and cattle rotational grazing

Diploids vs Tetraploids

Tetraploids have twice the number of chromosomes of diploid varieties, which makes all their cells bigger. This means they have larger seeds and leaves and tend to establish quickly. They are more able to compete when used for over-seeding.

Tetraploids have a more upright growth habit and are suited to drier growing conditions. In some cases they have better digestibility and palatability than diploids.

Diploids tend to be more persistent and tiller more freely and are generally better suited to wetter growing conditions. Well-managed diploid leys will usually produce denser swards.

Choosing the right type of Timothy and clover

Timothy

- Grows at lower temperatures than ryegrass so can be good for early season grazing, especially in cold, late springs
- Good mid-season growth can fill the gap when ryegrass growth falters
- Good winter hardiness and ground cover
- Can be slow to establish and yields are likely to be lower than PRG
- Best utilised in cooler, wetter areas

Good for extensive grazing and hay production

White clover

- High nutritional value, particularly protein and mineral content
- High palatability
- Good animal performance
- Can provide 150kg/ha (120 units/acre) of nitrogen for grass growth
- Match leaf size to stock (small for continuous, hard sheep grazing; medium for frequent cutting and rotational grazing; and large for cutting and cattle grazing)

Good for grazing and cutting

Red clover

- High protein content up to 19% in silage depending on percentage in sward
- High yields, even with no or low N fertiliser
- Early red clovers produce two main cuts and a small autumn cut
- Generally only lasts for three years

Good for cutting and finishing stock in autumn

Key information on each of the different grass and clover species is contained in the tables on pages 9 to 19.

The data provided has been extracted from the full Recommended Grass and Clover Lists. The full lists are available to all and can be found on the British Grassland Society website www.britishgrassland.com

Tips for reseeding

Once the decision to reseed has been made, it is important to follow some key steps:

Preparation

- Spring or autumn reseeding are equally advantageous and the choice will depend on the farming system plus when the field is available and conditions are good

Remember that any mixture containing red clover needs to be in by August and white clover needs to be in by September.

- Take a soil sample at a depth of 15cm – deeper than soil sampling in established swards as cultivation will disturb the soil
- Check for any soil structure issues – a plough may sort some of them out, but if the issue is deeper a sub-soiler may be needed
- Aim to deal with major weed problems in the old sward
- Correct any nutrient deficiencies

For lime

Apply before ploughing so it can be mixed in during cultivations and remember that it can take nine to twelve months for pH to increase so planning ahead is important.

These guidelines are based on material with neutralising value of 50. This is a simplified version as it has combined recommendations for different soil types. Look at Table 1.2 on page 14 in RB209 Chapter 1 - Principles of nutrient management and fertiliser use. See https://ahdb.org.uk/nutrient-management-guide-rb209 for more information. Seek advice from a FACTS-qualified adviser.

Guidelines for lime application

pH	Tonnes per ha	Tonnes per acre
6.2	0	0
6.0	0	0
5.5	3-4	1.2-1.6
5.0	5-7	2.0-2.8

To calculate from tonnes/ha to tonnes/acre multiply by 0.4046

Apply no more than 7.5 t/ha at one time.

The Nutrient Management Guide (RB209) provides recommendations for grass establishment:

- For spring sown reseeds the recommendation is 60kgN/ha
- For autumn reseeds the recommendations for moderate soil nitrogen supply situations is 0-50kg per ha depending on sowing date and soil Nitrogen supply
- Grass and clover reseeds have no requirement for nitrogen at establishment

For phosphate and potash:

P or K index	Phosphate (P_2O_5) kg/ha	Potash (K_2O) kg/ha
0	120	120
1	80	80
2	50	60 (2-) 40 (2+)
3	30	0
>3	0	0

Remember to deduct any nutrients applied in the seedbed from the first season's grazing or silage/hay requirements.

Full reseed

- For a full reseed, spray the old sward using a product containing glyphosate

Ensure there is enough leaf area remaining to take up the product and manufacturer's instructions are followed.

Consider how pests like leather jackets can be controlled – without chemicals.

- For a full reseed, plough, press and work down to a firm and reasonably fine seedbed
- Drill or broadcast the seed on to the rolled seedbed, to place it no deeper than 1cm
- Ring roll or light harrow to ensure maximum contact between seed and soil, but avoid burying the seed below 1cm, especially small seeded species such as clovers and timothy

Over-sowing

- Over-sowing or stitching-in can be a way to rejuvenate old or damaged grass without the cost of a full reseed
- As existing grass or weeds can out-compete the new seedlings, good soil structure and nutrients are still important
- The best time is summer as the existing grass is less vigorous and soil temperatures will be high, although soil moisture may be a limiting factor
- The seedlings need light so 40% of bare ground should be seen before over-sowing is considered – harrowing in two directions may help
- The seed can be broadcasted or direct drilled and the existing sward can be sprayed off beforehand or "checked" by hard grazing or cutting
- Seed to soil contact is still important, so roll after sowing or allow sheep to graze the field for 7-10 days to tread the seed in
- Seed rate will change depending on sward conditions – a minimum of 8kg per acre and up to 15kg for badly damaged swards
- Do not apply nitrogen as it will only boost the growth of the existing sward (if it has not been sprayed off)

Post-establishment

- Once the grass is established (after five to six weeks), graze lightly with sheep or young stock when the grass reaches 8-10cm to firm in roots and encourage tillering. Do not graze it down lower than 4cm
- Weed control in a new ley is usually necessary to ensure good establishment and to avoid variable ground cover
- If significant weed problems are expected, consider establishing the ley without clover and introduce it once the weed problems have been solved

All grass and clover species can be successfully established by following the above guidelines, however, tetraploid ryegrasses are likely to establish quicker and easier than diploids as they have larger seeds and are more competitive against the existing grasses.

Source: Wynnstay, Germinal GB Ltd, AHDB

How to use the Recommended Grass and Clover Lists

The tables on the following pages contain data extracted from the Recommended Grass and Clover Lists for 2022/23. They are provided to help producers to check and formulate seed mixtures in conjunction with their merchant.

The data produced are based on cutting trials in North Yorkshire, Shropshire, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, Devon and Ceredigion, plus additional information from Northern Ireland and Scotland. Each variety is sown for two or more seasons.

The cost of grass seed is a small proportion of the expense of reseeding – yet taking time to select the right varieties will reap productivity and lifespan benefits.

Your grass seed merchant will have a more in-depth booklet with more information about each variety on the Recommended Grass and Clover Lists. It can found at **www.britishgrassland.com/publications**

An online tool is available at **https://ahdb.org.uk/recommended-grass-and-clover-lists**

It can be used to compare perennial ryegrasses for various traits to help choose the correct varieties for the job.

Recommended List of Early Perennial Ryegrass Varieties 2022/2023

OK for short term cutting and grazing leys.
Can lose quality quickly as head early.

Variety	Heading date	Simulated grazing management: Total annual yield (Average = 100 at 9.64t DM/ha)	Simulated grazing management: D-value Midsummer	Conservation management: Total annual yield (Average = 100 at 14.88t DM/ha)	Conservation management: D-value 2nd conservation cut	Ground cover (1 = poor 9 = good)	Crown rust (1 = poor 9 = good)	Drechslera (1 = poor 9 = good)	Suitable for my farm ✓
Diploids									
Genesis	9 May	97	76.4	105	69.7	6.7	5.9	5.9	☐
Moyola	12 May	100	76.1	104	69.6	6.7	5.7	5.4	☐
Glasker	18 May	96	77.1	103	71.9	6.3	5.4	[6.0]	☐
Tetraploids									
AberTorch	10 May	96	76.8	102	71.0	6.6	4.5	6.7	☐
Cooky	18 May	97	77.0	101	72.3	6.2	5.4	8.2	☐
Barwave	18 May	97	76.4	106	70.4	4.6	7.3	-	☐

Yield

For yield figures, 100 equals the average yield for the varieties on the Recommended Lists. For example, if a variety has a yield of 105, it is above average. If it has a yield of 95, it is below average. It is measured in tonnes of dry matter per hectare.

[ ] Limited data.

D-value

D-value is a measure of quality and refers to the percentage of the dry matter that can be digested by an animal. A higher number is better.

Crown rust and Drechslera

Score relates to resistance. A higher number is better.

Recommended List of Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass Varieties 2022/2023

Variety	Heading date	Simulated grazing management: Total annual yield (Average = 100 at 9.64t DM/ha)	Simulated grazing management: D-value Midsummer	Conservation management: Total annual yield (Average = 100 at 14.88t DM/ha)	Conservation management: D-value 2nd conservation cut	Ground cover (1 = poor 9 = good)	Crown rust (1 = poor 9 = good)	Drechslera (1 = poor 9 = good)	Suitable for my farm ✔
Diploids									
Boyne	21 May	99	74.9	104	69.0	6.3	6.0	4.2	☐
Galgorm	23 May	106	77.4	105	74.4	6.0	5.1	4.4	☐
AstonConqueror	24 May	98	77.0	100	73.4	6.5	2.6	5.1	☐
Nifty	24 May	102	77.2	102	71.2	6.4	5.2	4.7	☐
Moira	24 May	100	76.0	102	74.1	5.8	4.5	5.8	☐
Glenariff	25 May	99	75.0	98	72.5	6.4	6.3	4.7	☐
AberZeus	27 May	104	78.1	102	74.0	7.3	6.3	4.9	☐
AberWolf	28 May	100	77.9	100	71.8	7.1	4.9	4.1	☐
AberMagic	28 May	103	77.5	100	71.6	6.5	6.2	3.5	☐
Alecto	29 May	102	76.6	101	71.3	6.6	6.3	-	☐
Gosford	29 May	99	77.2	100	73.3	6.4	5.8	4.5	☐
Agaska	30 May	101	76.3	99	71.5	6.3	6.8	4.1	☐
AberGreen	30 May	104	77.4	101	72.4	6.9	5.6	4.8	☐

Good for cutting, but can also be used for intensive spring grazing.

Variety	Heading date	Simulated grazing management: Total annual yield *Average = 100 at 9.64t DM/ha*	Simulated grazing management: D-value Midsummer	Conservation management: Total annual yield *Average = 100 at 14.88t DM/ha*	Conservation management: D-value 2nd conservation cut	Ground cover *1 = poor 9 = good*	Crown rust *1 = poor 9 = good*	Drechslera *1 = poor 9 = good*	Suitable for my farm ✔
Tetraploids									
Fintona	20 May	102	76.9	105	73.8	5.4	2.2	7.3	
16LP10T01*	21 May	98	77.6	105	72.8	5.2	4.8	[7.3]	
Tollymore	22 May	105	77.1	104	73.5	5.2	4.9	-	
Seagoe	23 May	100	76.8	107	72.7	5.8	6.1	5.3	
Nolwen	23 May	99	76.5	102	73.1	6.1	8.3	5.5	
AberRoot #	23 May	99	78.9	101	73.1	5.0	4.2	[6.6]	
AberClyde	25 May	96	77.2	100	72.4	6.0	6.5	6.5	
Ritchie	25 May	103	75.8	103	69.6	6.6	5.8	[7.3]	
AstonVision	26 May	99	77.2	98	74.6	6.1	6.4	5.2	
Chatsworth	27 May	103	77.9	101	71.6	6.0	3.6	8.0	
AberSpey	30 May	106	78.9	103	74.0	5.7	5.0	6.6	
Convey	30 May	102	76.5	101	72.7	6.0	5.4	6.9	
Dunluce	30 May	101	77.2	101	72.3	5.5	2.4	6.7	
Diwan	30 May	96	76.3	103	71.3	5.2	7.3	5.4	
Federer	30 May	97	76.9	100	73.2	5.9	5.9	5.9	
Triwarwic	31 May	95	76.0	102	72.3	5.6	6.3	4.6	
Pensel	31 May	97	75.1	103	69.9	5.5	5.7	7.4	
AstonEnergy	1 Jun	98	77.8	96	74.6	5.3	6.5	6.8	

[ ] Limited data. # Festulolium type variety. * Variety name awaiting approval.

Recommended List of Late Perennial Ryegrass Varieties 2022/2023

Diploids – Good for long term grazing and cutting leys. Good for ground cover.

Variety	Heading date	Simulated grazing management: Total annual yield *Average = 100 at 9.64t DM/ha*	Simulated grazing management: D-value Midsummer	Conservation management: Total annual yield *Average = 100 at 14.88t DM/ha*	Conservation management: D-value 2nd conservation cut	Ground cover	Crown rust	Drechslera	✔ Suitable for my farm
						1 = poor 9 = good			
Diploids									
Kendal	31 May	97	76.6	98	73.5	6.9	8.0	6.0	
Wetherby	31 May	102	77.7	102	73.3	6.8	7.7	[5.3]	
Callan	2 Jun	102	76.0	99	73.6	6.4	4.4	3.9	
AberTest	2 Jun	103	79.1	96	75.8	6.6	6.1	[4.8]	
Dundrod	2 Jun	99	75.4	98	72.0	6.4	6.7	4.5	
Ballyvoy	2 Jun	100	77.5	100	75.6	6.9	3.1	4.1	
Toddington	2 Jun	96	75.8	95	72.3	6.7	6.9	5.3	
AberAvon	3 Jun	99	77.7	94	74.0	7.1	6.2	3.7	
AstonKing	3 Jun	98	75.6	95	73.0	6.0	6.9	4.3	
Crossgar	4 Jun	99	76.5	98	73.1	6.4	6.1	[4.4]	
Oakpark	4 Jun	99	76.5	98	72.9	6.6	4.6	5.3	
Glenarm	4 Jun	98	76.8	99	74.0	6.3	6.3	3.9	
Drumbo	4 Jun	97	77.2	93	75.1	6.1	4.9	4.5	
Gleneagle	5 Jun	100	76.3	96	72.4	6.7	4.3	5.4	
Cavendish	5 Jun	96	75.4	96	73.5	7.0	6.8	4.4	
Clanrye	5 Jun	96	75.9	97	71.5	6.3	4.9	5.1	
Smile	6 Jun	99	77.0	97	73.4	6.3	3.2	4.6	
Timing	6 Jun	98	75.4	96	72.7	6.6	6.9	4.7	
Zorgue	6 Jun	97	76.6	95	74.5	7.4	7.3	[6.2]	
Timuco	6 Jun	103	75.8	99	73.1	5.9	6.4	[4.9]	
AberBann	7 Jun	106	77.5	99	72.8	6.3	5.2	5.2	

Table continues on page 13 overleaf

Variety	Heading date	Simulated grazing management		Conservation management		Ground cover	Crown rust	Drechslera	✔ Suitable for my farm
		Total annual yield *Average = 100 at 9.64t DM/ha*	D-value Midsummer	Total annual yield *Average = 100 at 14.88t DM/ha*	D-value 2nd conservation cut	*1 = poor 9 = good*			
Swan	7 Jun	101	74.9	94	73.2	6.9	6.9	5.4	
AberLee	7 Jun	98	79.2	91	75.3	7.3	6.7	4.2	
AberThames	8 Jun	106	76.3	102	71.8	5.7	8.4	[5.0]	
Delika	8 Jun	102	76.9	96	73.6	6.4	8.6	[5.3]	
AberChoice	10 Jun	103	76.9	97	72.3	6.0	4.2	2.6	
Cancan	12 Jun	101	75.9	93	73.2	6.7	4.3	4.5	
AberDon	13 Jun	108	79.1	95	74.6	5.9	6.4	[4.6]	
Bowie	18 Jun	101	75.4	92	71.6	6.7	4.8	4.1	

Tetraploids – Good for medium term cutting leys and in grazing mixtures.

Variety	Heading date	Simulated grazing management		Conservation management		Ground cover	Crown rust	Drechslera	✔ Suitable for my farm
		Total annual yield *Average = 100 at 9.64t DM/ha*	D-value Midsummer	Total annual yield *Average = 100 at 14.88t DM/ha*	D-value 2nd conservation cut	*1 = poor 9 = good*			
Tetraploids									
Ballintoy	31 May	102	77.5	105	72.3	5.6	3.2	5.8	
Bijou	1 Jun	100	75.4	102	71.7	5.9	7.9	6.5	
Gracehill	2 Jun	104	76.9	103	73.2	5.5	7.7	7.0	
Meiduno	2 Jun	103	76.7	102	74.0	5.2	5.6	7.1	
Weldone	2 Jun	102	77.2	99	74.0	6.1	6.8	6.8	
Calao	3 Jun	99	77.4	102	73.2	6.0	6.0	6.0	
Aspect	4 Jun	100	77.0	100	73.3	6.1	4.1	6.4	
AberGain	5 Jun	106	78.3	107	72.6	6.0	6.1	6.1	
Nashota	5 Jun	103	77.6	104	74.3	6.3	6.4	6.6	
AberBite	5 Jun	102	77.6	99	74.3	5.8	5.8	6.6	
Thegn	6 Jun	102	77.5	99	73.1	6.4	6.8	6.6	
Hopi	9 Jun	101	76.6	98	72.4	6.0	7.1	6.6	

[ ] Limited data.

Recommended List of Italian Ryegrass Varieties 2022/2023

Good for silage production and cattle rotational grazing.

Variety	Heading date	Total annual yield *Average = 100 at 16.56t DM/ha*	D-value 2nd conservation cut	Early spring growth 1st harvest year *Average = 100 at 1.68t DM/ha*	1st Conservation cut *Average = 100 at 6.52t DM/ha*	Ground cover	Crown rust resistance	Mildew resistance	Suitable for my farm ✔
						1 = poor 9 = good			
Diploids									
Shakira	18 May	100	64.1	100	103	3.4	6.7	6.5	☐
Syntilla	19 May	100	63.6	108	97	4.1	7.5	[6.6]	☐
Muriello	20 May	99	64.7	100	94	4.0	6.5	6.7	☐
Fox	21 May	99	65.0	104	99	4.0	7.1	6.8	☐
Jaccar	21 May	102	64.8	114	104	4.0	6.7	-	☐
Pinaco	21 May	101	64.7	92	98	4.2	6.2	[7.0]	☐
Steel	21 May	99	64.6	102	101	3.9	7.7	6.3	☐
Alamo	21 May	100	64.9	98	97	4.2	6.5	7.0	☐
Abys	22 May	101	64.5	103	98	4.2	7.2	7.1	☐
Sendero	22 May	103	65.2	109	97	4.2	7.5	[7.2]	☐
Melprimo	23 May	100	64.2	103	94	4.0	7.3	-	☐
Javorio	24 May	99	65.6	96	99	3.9	5.6	6.6	☐

Variety	Heading date	Total annual yield *Average = 100 at 16.56t DM/ha*	D-value 2nd conservation cut	Early spring growth 1st harvest year *Average = 100 at 1.68t DM/ha*	1st Conservation cut *Average =100 at 6.52t DM/ha*	Ground cover	Crown rust resistance	Mildew resistance	Suitable for my farm ✔
						1 = poor 9 = good			
Tetraploids									
Udine	18 May	99	65.5	96	102	3.7	7.5	7.0	☐
Kigezi 1	18 May	100	65.0	100	104	3.7	7.8	6.3	☐
Hunter	19 May	99	64.4	96	105	3.5	5.7	6.7	☐
Melsprinter	20 May	98	64.5	108	97	3.0	7.9	-	☐
Melsitra	20 May	98	64.4	105	99	3.2	7.5	[7.2]	☐
Barmultra II	20 May	100	65.6	101	105	3.8	7.8	6.2	☐
Messina	21 May	100	65.5	107	99	3.7	7.7	6.6	☐
Arman	21 May	98	65.7	106	103	3.2	7.3	[7.0]	☐
Cazzano	21 May	101	66.0	96	100	3.5	4.0	7.4	☐
Barimax	21 May	101	64.6	89	104	3.2	7.2	[6.4]	☐

[ ] Limited data.

Recommended List of Hybrid Ryegrass Varieties 2022/2023

Good for silage production and cattle rotational grazing.

Variety	Heading date	Total annual yield *Average = 100 at 15.19t DM/ha*	D-value 2nd conservation cut	Early spring growth 1st harvest year *Average = 100 at 1.56t DM/ha*	Ground cover	Crown rust resistance	Mildew resistance	Suitable for my farm ✔
					1 = poor 9 = good			
Diploids								
Pirol	22 May	100	65.4	113	3.8	6.1	4.4	☐
Barsilo	26 May	96	66.3	107	3.5	4.5	7.2	☐
Barclamp	26 May	97	65.2	103	3.6	6.8	5.6	☐
Tetraploids								
AberSheen	14 May	105	67.8	96	3.6	3.8	7.8	☐
AberEcho	17 May	100	69.8	98	4.2	4.2	6.2	☐
Aston Crusader	19 May	101	68.8	108	4.1	6.4	7.1	☐
Bannfoot	20 May	100	71.5	81	4.5	5.4	7.0	☐
Enduro	21 May	99	69.3	93	4.3	7.1	6.4	☐
Perkins	21 May	100	67.8	105	4.5	6.2	8.3	☐
Tetragraze	21 May	99	69.3	79	4.6	4.2	6.5	☐
Novial	21 May	99	69.9	93	4.3	7.0	6.5	☐
AberOpal	22 May	103	70.3	90	4.0	3.5	6.6	☐
RGT Cordial	22 May	103	69.8	91	4.7	6.8	5.9	☐
AberNiche #	23 May	101	65.9	109	3.7	6.0	6.7	☐
Kirial	23 May	101	69.2	96	4.1	6.7	7.1	☐
Bahial	24 May	100	69.5	94	4.2	6.5	6.0	☐
Amalgam	25 May	97	69.6	82	4.8	6.7	5.5	☐
Perseus #	25 May	100	67.0	96	4.0	8.3	6.1	☐
AberImage	26 May	101	67.0	94	4.1	2.8	6.8	☐

Festulolium type variety.

Recommended List of Timothy Varieties 2022/2023

Good for extensive grazing and hay production.
Good for wetter soils.

		Simulated grazing management		Conservation management				
Variety	**Heading date**	**Total annual yield** *Average = 100 at 9.97t DM/ha*	**D-value** Midsummer	**Total annual yield** *Average = 100 at 13.86t DM/ha*	**D-value** 2nd conservation cut	**Ground cover**	**Winter hardiness**	**Suitable for my farm** ✓
						1 = poor 9 = good		
Presto	7 Jun	100	73.1	99	64.3	4.9	7.2	☐
Comer	8 Jun	102	71.8	101	64.4	4.7	7.2	☐
Dolina	8 Jun	102	71.7	103	64.3	4.5	7.1	☐
Promesse	8 Jun	94	73.4	95	65.0	5.2	6.9	☐
Comtal	9 Jun	100	72.1	99	64.3	5.2	7.0	☐
Winnetou	10 Jun	96	74.2	99	65.9	5.3	6.7	☐
Baronaise	13 Jun	101	74.4	98	67.4	5.2	-	☐
Motim	16 Jun	96	72.3	96	64.7	5.6	6.8	☐

Recommended List of White Clover Varieties 2022/2023

Good for grazing and cutting.

Variety	Leaf area (mm^2)	Total yield of clover: 3rd harvest year (Average = 100 at 4.13t DM/ha)	Total yield of grass + clover: 3rd harvest year (Average = 100 at 10.30t DM/ha)	Autumn ground cover 1 = poor, 9 = good: After light defoliation	Autumn ground cover 1 = poor, 9 = good: After hard defoliation	Suitable for my farm ✓
AberAce	389	71	90	**4.9**	**7.8**	☐
Aberystwyth S184	644	74	93	**5.8**	**7.7**	☐
AberHerald	793	112	103	**7.2**	**6.3**	☐
Coolfin	794	97	98	**6.6**	**7.5**	☐
Buddy	820	92	97	**5.6**	**6.9**	☐
Quartz	824	96	101	**6.8**	**8.9**	☐
Iona	848	101	98	**6.0**	**6.7**	☐
G Bounty	887	98	102	**6.7**	**8.4**	☐
AberSwan	909	119	105	**6.8**	**7.2**	☐
AberDai	914	95	99	**6.3**	**6.2**	☐
AberSirius	1025	123	110	**7.0**	**5.0**	☐
Dublin	1042	115	106	**7.0**	**6.8**	☐
Violin	1056	113	104	**7.1**	**7.4**	☐
Barblanca	1118	112	103	**7.7**	**8.0**	☐
Legacy	1200	112	108	**7.3**	**7.6**	☐
Aran	1383	109	102	**6.7**	**5.0**	☐
Kakariki	1454	117	103	**6.4**	**6.2**	☐
Brianna	1541	116	103	**6.9**	**6.2**	☐

Lucerne Varieties 2022/2023

Variety	Conservation management: Total yield (*Average = 100 at 13.68 t DM/ha*)	Seasonal growth: Yield of 1st cut in 1st harvest year (*Average = 100 at 4.44 t DM/ha*)	Seasonal growth: Crude protein % in 1st cut of 1st harvest year	Suitable for my farm ✓
Daisy	101	103	18.2	☐

Recommended List of Red Clover Varieties 2022/2023

Good for cutting and finishing stock in the autumn.

Variety	Conservation management						Suitable for my farm ✓
	Yield of 1st cut in 1st harvest year *Average = 100 at 5.20t DM/ha*	**Total annual yield** *Average = 100 at 11.69t DM/ha*	**Crude protein %** *in 1st cut of 1st harvest year*	**Crude protein %** *in 2nd cut of 2nd harvest year*	**Crude protein %** *in 2nd cut of 3rd harvest year*	**Ground cover %** *2nd harvest year*	
Diploids							
Merviot	112	96	17.1	19.3	19.0	47	☐
Lemmon	100	99	17.6	19.2	19.8	60	☐
AberClaret	98	104	17.0	18.2	18.7	59	☐
Harmonie	99	98	18.3	19.6	20.1	64	☐
Sinope	104	100	17.8	19.2	-	57	☐
Fearga	91	105	17.1	18.3	18.6	58	☐
Ganymed	104	106	16.5	18.1	19.0	60	☐
Tetraploids							
Amos	101	99	18.1	20.2	19.9	57	☐
Maro	101	96	18.0	19.5	19.7	50	☐
Atlantis	101	102	17.8	20.6	19.7	60	☐
Magellan	99	102	18.0	19.9	19.9	60	☐

Cocksfoot Varieties 2022/2023

Variety	Conservation management		Seasonal growth				Suitable for my farm ✓
	Total annual yield *Average= 100 at 15.37 t DM/ha*	**D-value** 2nd conservation cut	**Yield of 1st cut** in 1st harvest year *Ave. = 100 at 5.41t DM/ha*	**D-value** Midsummer	**Ground cover**	**Winter hardiness**	
					1 = poor 9 = good		
Sparta	99	64.3	99	67.7	6.5	6.1	☐
Lidacta	102	64.4	101	66.5	6.5	5.4	☐
RGT Lovely	110	64.3	101	67.5	5.8	-	☐

Useful Contacts

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What's different in this year's RGCL?

New varieties

On the 2022/23 RGCL, twelve new varieties have been added.

The challenge with new varieties is that seed availability may not be high enough for them to be in many mixtures, but they are ones to watch.

Name	Type	Page
Barwave	Early perennial ryegrass	9
Alecto	Intermediate perennial ryegrass	10
Tollymore	Intermediate perennial ryegrass	11
Crossgar	Late perennial ryegrass	12
Timuco	Late perennial ryegrass	12
AberDon	Late perennial ryegrass	13
Jaccar	Italian ryegrass	14
Melsprinter	Italian ryegrass	15
AberOpal	Hybrid ryegrass	16
Legacy	White Clover	18
Kakariki	White Clover	18
Ganymed	Red Clover	19

What do I want?

Field name: _____

For: ☐ Beef ☐ Sheep ☐ Dairy ☐ Mixed grazing

It is likely to be:
☐ Grazed only ☐ Silaged once ☐ Silaged 2-3 times

Needs to last:
☐ 1 year ☐ 2 years ☐ 3-4 years ☐ 5 years
☐ 10 years ☐ is for overseeding only

My soil pH is: ☐ 5 - 5.5 ☐ 6 - 6.5 ☐ 6.5+

P and K indexes are: **P:** _____ **K:** _____

Nitrogen use: ☐ None ☐ Low ☐ Medium ☐ High

My priority is: ☐ Yield ☐ Quality ☐ Balance of both

I wish to include varieties for:
☐ Early spring growth ☐ Mainly mid-season growth
☐ Late autumn grazing ☐ Extended spring and autumn grazing

Crown rust resistance is:
☐ Very important ☐ Moderately important ☐ Not important

Other diseases I am concerned about include: _____

Species must include:
☐ White clover ☐ Red clover ☐ High digestibility grasses
☐ Timothy ☐ Other _____

Other requirements: _____

_____

Recommended Grass and Clover Lists are funded by plant breeders through the British Society of Plant Breeders and the ruminant levy boards (AHDB and HCC).

The full Lists can be found at **www.britishgrassland.com/product-category/recommended-grass-and-clover-lists/**

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PROMOTING SEED INNOVATION

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Complying with spray legislation at a glance

These measures apply to grassland weedkillers

- Demonstrate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is followed on your farm
- The sprayer operator on your farm must hold a Recognised Certificate; Grandfather rights are no longer valid
- All pesticide application equipment (excluding handheld equipment) in use must have a valid National Sprayer Testing Scheme (NSTS) Certificate.

These measures are a legal requirements for the UK and its farmers through the UK's Sustainable Use Regulations. Non-compliance could lead to prosecution and threaten your Single Farm Payment. They will also feature in Red Tractor standards.

H2OK? Think Water – Keep it Clean

Many grassland weedkillers are detected in drinking water sources, take extra care to protect water when filling and washing the sprayer and avoid over-spraying ditches and streams.

For more advice visit **www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk**