



Handbook

Recommended Grass and Clover Lists for England and Wales



2024/25



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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, 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.

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these days would want to use bull or ram genetics from the 1950s in their livestock breeding, yet they continue to use outdated varieties in their grassland.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

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



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 across the growing season, as well as 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.

Cautionary note: There is some evidence to suggest that red clover may be detrimental to the fertility of breeding ewes. More work is being carried out in this area to investigate the risks, but if in doubt please consult your vet.

Key information on each of the different Timothy and clover species is contained in the tables on pages 21–23.

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 britishgrassland.com and ahdb.org.uk



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
- 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

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

Guidelines for lime application

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 13 of the Nutrient management guide (RB209) Section 1 – Principles of nutrient management and fertiliser use. See ahdb.org.uk/RB209 for more information. Seek advice from a FACTS-qualified adviser.

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.
Acidity level increases the lower the pH.

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

- For spring sown reseed the recommendation is 60kgN/ha
- Depending on sowing date, 50kg/ha nitrogen is recommended for moderate soil nitrogen supply situations
- Grass and clover reseed have no requirement for nitrogen at establishment

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

Guidelines for phosphate and potash application

P or K index	Phosphate (P ₂ O ₅) kg/ha	Potash (K ₂ O) kg/ha
0	120	120
1	80	80
2	50	60 (2-) 40 (2+)
3	30	0
>3	0	0

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 into the soil
- 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 2024/25. 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 be found at britishgrassland.com/publications

An online tool is available at 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.

The image is a screenshot of a web-based tool interface. At the top, there are two tabs: 'Grazing Table' (selected) and 'Conservation Table'. Below the tabs, there are several input fields for 'Maturity group', 'Foddy', 'Production', and 'Disease resistance'. A large table is displayed below, with columns for 'Variety', 'Maturity group', 'Foddy', 'Production', and 'Disease resistance'. The table contains multiple rows of data for various grass varieties, including their names, maturity groups, and other characteristics.

Early Perennial Ryegrass varieties

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

Variety	RL status	Heading date	Simulated grazing management				Conservation management				Crown rust resistance	Drechslera resistance
			Total annual yield Average = 100 at 9.16 t DM/ha	D-value Midsummer	Ground cover %	ME yield (% of 113,000 MJ/ha)	Total annual yield Average = 100 at 14.14 t DM/ha	D-value 2nd conservation cut	Ground cover %	ME yield (% of 119,000 MJ/ha)		
Diploids												
Genesis	G	11/05	96	75.5	70	95	103	69.5	67	97	6.0	6.0
Moyola	G	14/05	97	75.4	67	96	100	69.0	64	93	5.8	5.4
Glasker	G	17/05	97	76.6	67	97	100	73.3	67	98	5.6	6.1
Tetraploids												
AberTorch	G	11/05	94	76.4	69	94	99	70.5	69	96	4.0	6.7
Cooky	G	17/05	95	77.4	69	96	99	72.0	68	95	5.8	6.2
Barwave	PS	20/05	96	75.9	56	95	106	69.6	54	105	7.4	6.3

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.

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.

Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass varieties

Diploids – Good for grazing and low intensity cutting.

Variety	RL status	Heading date	Simulated grazing management				Conservation management				Crown rust resistance	Drechslera resistance
			Total annual yield Average = 100 at 9.16 t DM/ha	D-value Midsummer	Ground cover %	ME yield (% of 113,000 MJ/ha)	Total annual yield Average = 100 at 14.14 t DM/ha	D-value 2nd conservation cut	Ground cover %	ME yield (% of 119,000 MJ/ha)		
Diploids												
Galgorm	G	22/05	106	76.8	65	106	105	74.7	64	103	5.1	4.7
Nifty	G	22/05	101	76.8	69	101	102	71.8	69	103	5.6	5.1
Moira	G	23/05	99	75.7	67	97	103	74.1	62	99	4.7	5.3
Goldwell	PG	23/05	103	77.1	69	103	102	72.8	66	98	6.2	-
AberZeus	G	25/05	104	77.8	76	105	103	74.4	69	104	6.3	4.2
AberMagic	G	27/05	102	77.3	68	102	101	71.6	67	102	6.3	3.8
Alecto	PG	27/05	101	76.2	70	100	101	71.7	68	103	6.4	4.6
AberWolf	G	27/05	98	77.5	74	99	100	72.1	70	101	5.0	4.4
Gosford	G	28/05	100	77.2	68	100	101	73.4	66	102	5.9	4.3
Agaska	PS	28/05	102	75.6	67	100	100	71.7	65	101	7.1	4.8
AberTweed	PG	29/05	107	79.9	70	111	104	74.7	69	104	6.2	7.1
AberGreen	G	29/05	103	77.3	71	104	103	72.7	69	103	5.9	5.0
Farmington	PG	29/05	103	77.0	70	103	102	72.5	67	100	6.7	6.6

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

Variety	RL status	Heading date	Simulated grazing management				Conservation management				Grown rust resistance	Drechslera resistance
			Total annual yield Average = 100 at 9.16 t DM/ha	D-value Midsummer	Ground cover %	ME yield (% of 113,000 MJ/ha)	Total annual yield Average = 100 at 14.14 t DM/ha	D-value 2nd conservation cut	Ground cover %	ME yield (% of 119,000 MJ/ha)		
Tetraploids												
Fintona	S	20/05	100	76.6	60	100	106	73.8	60	106	1.7	6.7
Seagoe	G	22/05	98	76.9	65	97	106	72.9	62	110	6.2	5.1
Erinvale	PG	22/05	99	77.3	59	99	106	72.4	59	107	4.9	6.7
Banbridge	PG	22/05	100	76.8	65	99	108	71.9	63	111	5.4	-
Nolwen	G	22/05	98	76.3	66	97	102	73.1	65	104	8.0	5.2
AberRoot #	PG	23/05	99	78.6	59	101	103	73.2	59	107	3.5	6.3
Tollymore	PG	23/05	104	76.7	60	104	106	73.6	60	108	5.0	6.1
Ritchie	PG	25/05	102	75.6	70	100	104	70.3	67	105	5.7	5.5
AstonVision	PS	26/05	99	77.2	66	99	99	74.8	63	102	7.0	4.3
Chatsworth	PG	27/05	99	76.9	64	99	102	72.2	64	106	3.7	6.9
AberSpey	G	29/05	105	78.6	66	107	104	74.2	61	106	4.8	6.6
Convey	PG	29/05	98	75.9	64	97	101	72.5	65	104	5.7	5.8
Dunluce	S	30/05	100	77.1	61	100	102	72.6	60	103	2.6	6.4
Federer	PG	30/05	96	76.7	66	95	101	73.2	62	104	6.3	6.1
Pensel	S	30/05	96	75.1	62	94	103	70.0	63	109	6.0	6.2
AstonEnergy	S	31/05	95	77.8	63	96	97	74.5	58	105	6.7	6.8

Festulolium type variety

G General Use **S** Recommended for Specific Use

PG Provisional General Use Recommendation **PS** Provisional Specific Use Recommendation

Late Perennial Ryegrass varieties

Variety	RL status	Heading date	Simulated grazing management				Conservation management				Crown rust resistance	Drechslera resistance
			Total annual yield Average = 100 at 9.16t DM/ha	D-value Midsummer	Ground cover %	ME yield (% of 113,000 MJ/ha)	Total annual yield Average = 100 at 14.14 t DM/ha	D-value 2nd conservation cut	Ground cover %	ME yield (% of 119,000 MJ/ha)		
			1 = poor 9 = good									
Diploids – Good for long term grazing and cutting leys. Good for ground cover												
Wetherby	PG	29/05	101	77.4	73	102	101	72.9	70	102	6.5	4.8
Kendal	PG	29/05	97	76.2	75	97	98	73.6	67	97	7.2	5.3
AberSevern	PG	30/05	111	79.0	67	115	100	76.3	63	104	5.1	-
Callan	G	31/05	102	75.7	69	101	99	73.5	65	96	4.3	4.2
AberTest	PG	31/05	102	78.8	71	105	98	76.0	66	99	6.4	4.1
Harrenhal	PG	31/05	101	76.1	71	99	97	73.4	68	96	7.2	-
Graphic	PG	31/05	97	76.4	77	97	97	72.8	70	97	6.5	-
Bandon	PG	31/05	106	76.6	64	107	103	75.8	62	106	4.9	-
Toddington	G	31/05	95	75.3	71	94	95	72.6	67	94	6.8	4.6
Ballyvoy	PS	01/06	99	77.0	72	100	100	74.8	69	101	2.9	4.2
Dundrod	S	01/06	102	74.8	64	100	102	72.0	63	101	6.8	4.3
Bomium	PG	01/06	104	75.7	71	103	103	74.1	67	103	6.3	4.9
AstonKing	PS	01/06	99	75.4	66	97	95	73.0	62	95	7	4.0
Crossgar	PG	01/06	99	76.1	70	97	99	73.4	66	99	6.1	4.8
Oakpark	G	02/06	98	76.3	70	97	98	73.0	67	96	4.9	4.9
AberAvon	G	02/06	99	77.5	74	101	95	73.9	72	94	5.8	3.7
Drumbo	G	02/06	96	76.8	69	96	92	74.8	62	90	4.9	4.8
Glenarm	G	02/06	98	76.4	71	98	99	73.9	65	101	6.4	4.3
Gleneagle	PG	03/06	99	75.8	72	98	96	72.5	67	95	4.5	5.4

Table continues overleaf

G General Use **S** Recommended for Specific Use

PG Provisional General Use Recommendation **PS** Provisional Specific Use Recommendation

Variety	RL status	Heading date	Simulated grazing management				Conservation management				Crown rust resistance	Drechslera resistance
			Total annual yield Average = 100 at 9.16 t DM/ha	D-value Midsummer	Ground cover %	ME yield (% of 113,000 MJ/ha)	Total annual yield Average = 100 at 14.14 t DM/ha	D-value 2nd conservation cut	Ground cover %	ME yield (% of 119,000 MJ/ha)		
Zorgue	PG	03/06	97	76.4	76	97	94	74.1	72	97	6.7	5.1
Timuco	PG	04/06	104	75.5	65	101	99	73.3	64	97	6.1	4.4
Timing	S	04/06	98	74.9	74	96	95	72.7	68	96	6.9	4.6
AberBann	G	04/06	105	77.3	69	106	98	72.5	63	99	5.4	4.8
Charlfield	PG	05/06	103	75.4	67	102	97	72.7	63	95	5.5	5.1
AberThames	PG	05/06	109	76.2	66	108	100	72.1	62	96	7.0	5.5
Swan	PS	05/06	99	74.7	74	96	94	72.8	69	91	6.9	4.6
AberLee	G	05/06	97	78.7	76	99	90	74.0	72	92	6.4	4.6
Delika	PG	06/06	102	76.6	71	101	94	73.4	67	93	8.0	4.7
AberChoice	S	08/06	103	76.6	67	103	98	72.5	63	100	4.1	2.6
Cancan	G	09/06	101	75.3	70	100	93	73.0	67	92	4.9	4.5
AberDon	PG	10/06	108	78.7	65	112	95	74.8	64	95	5.7	3.8
Bowie	PS	15/06	101	75.1	74	99	92	71.7	68	89	5.1	3.6

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

Ballintoy	G	30/05	104	77.0	65	105	106	72.8	60	109	3.0	6.5
Bijou	S	01/06	100	75.3	66	98	101	71.7	62	105	7.1	6.0
AberForth	PS	01/06	101	78.0	57	102	101	74.5	52	106	5.9	6.5
Meiduno	S	01/06	104	76.4	63	103	102	74.1	58	104	5.8	6.3
Weldone	PG	01/06	102	76.7	68	102	100	73.6	63	103	6.7	6.3
Richhill	PG	01/06	102	76.7	64	102	108	74.4	59	113	5.5	5.9
Gracehill	PG	01/06	103	76.1	65	103	102	72.7	60	104	6.8	6.8
Aspect	G	03/06	100	76.8	67	100	100	73.3	63	104	4.4	6.6
AberGain	G	03/06	107	77.9	66	109	106	72.6	63	110	5.8	5.8
Nashota	G	03/06	103	77.2	68	103	103	74.3	63	109	6.6	6.4
AstonGlory	PS	04/06	105	78.4	64	107	101	75.7	57	102	5.8	6.3
Thegn	PG	05/06	102	77.4	68	103	98	73.3	65	99	6.8	6.4
Hopi	PG	08/06	99	76.3	67	98	97	72.3	63	98	6.6	6.5

Italian Ryegrass varieties

Diploids – Good for silage production and cattle rotational grazing.

Variety	RL status	Heading date	Total annual yield Average = 100 at 15.66 t DM/ha	D-value 2nd conservation cut	ME yield 1st & 2nd cut, 1st harvest yr (% of 112,000 MJ/ha)	Early spring growth 1st harvest year Average = 100 at 1.78 t DM/ha	1st conservation cut Average = 100 at 6.18 t DM/ha	Ground cover % 2nd harvest year	Resistance	
									Crown rust resistance	Mildew resistance
Diploids										
									1 = poor 9 = good	
Shakira	G	21/05	101	63.8	100	102	101	45	6.5	6.8
Syntilla	PG	21/05	100	63.7	96	109	96	56	7.9	6.7
Doluga	PG	22/05	101	64.2	101	101	100	52	6.7	[6.7]
Muriello	G	22/05	100	64.6	97	99	95	54	6.6	6.8
Fox	G	22/05	100	64.5	98	105	99	54	7.5	6.9
Bigdyl	PG	22/05	103	63.3	99	101	101	61	8.0	-
Alamo	G	23/05	100	64.9	99	98	96	56	6.6	7.1
Jaccar	PG	23/05	101	64.3	99	107	101	54	6.4	[7.0]
Pinaco	PG	23/05	101	64.4	100	93	97	55	6.5	6.9
Sendero	G	23/05	102	64.7	101	109	97	55	6.9	7.1
Abys	G	23/05	101	64.2	99	105	97	57	7.7	6.9
Exotyl	PG	24/05	103	64.4	100	103	100	59	8.0	-
Melprimo	PG	25/05	99	64.0	95	104	93	52	7.6	7.2

[] = Only 2 trials worth of data.

G General Use **S** Recommended for Specific Use

PG Provisional General Use Recommendation **PS** Provisional Specific Use Recommendation

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

Variety	RL status	Heading date	Total annual yield Average = 100 at 15.66 t DM/ha	D-value 2nd conservation cut	ME yield 1st & 2nd cut, 1st harvest yr (% of 112,000 MJ/ha)	Early spring growth 1st harvest year Average = 100 at 1.78 t DM/ha	1st conservation cut Average = 100 at 6.18 t DM/ha	Ground cover % 2nd harvest year	Crown rust resistance	Mildew resistance
									1 = poor 9 = good	
Tetraploids										
Udine	G	20/05	99	64.9	98	98	102	52	7.5	6.7
Melsprinter	PS	20/05	97	64.5	102	113	98	42	7.5	[6.8]
Kigezi 1	G	20/05	100	64.3	98	100	101	52	7.4	6.4
Hunter	G	20/05	99	63.9	103	98	103	48	5.6	6.6
Melsitra	PS	21/05	99	64.5	101	105	98	45	7.7	6.9
Arman	S	21/05	98	64.9	101	104	102	47	7.4	6.8
Messina	G	22/05	100	65.4	100	106	99	51	7.3	6.5
Barmultra II	G	22/05	100	65.6	102	102	103	51	7.5	6.2
Barimax	G	23/05	101	64.0	103	89	103	46	7.3	6.5

G General Use **S** Recommended for Specific Use

PG Provisional General Use Recommendation **PS** Provisional Specific Use Recommendation

Hybrid Ryegrass varieties

Good for silage production and cattle rotational grazing.

Variety	RL status	Heading date	Total annual yield Average = 100 at 14.02 t DM/ha	D-value 2nd conservation cut	ME yield 1st & 2nd cut, 1st harvestyr (% of 114,000 MJ/ha)	Early spring growth 1st harvest year Average = 100 at 1.78 t DM/ha	Ground cover % 2nd harvest year	Crown rust resistance	Mildew resistance
								1 = poor 9 = good	
Diploids									
Barlaunch	PG	21/05	99	65.5	92	112	56	7.4	5.9
Pirol	G	23/05	100	65.1	101	115	60	6.2	4.4
Barsilo	S	26/05	96	66.0	101	110	55	5.1	6.9
Barclamp	S	27/05	97	65.1	102	99	60	6.7	5.5
Tetraploids									
Kubicek	PS	15/05	96	68.7	71	66	82	7.7	-
AberSheen	PS	18/05	105	68.6	100	92	55	4.8	7.8
AberEcho	G	19/05	100	70.1	103	99	62	4.4	6.3
Aston Crusader	G	21/05	101	68.8	100	110	62	6.4	7.0
Utopial	PG	22/05	104	70.1	100	107	67	7.6	6.4
Enduro	G	22/05	99	69.3	100	94	63	7.0	6.4
Bannfoot	G	22/05	99	72.1	98	83	65	5.8	7.0
Tetragraze	S	22/05	98	69.5	100	83	70	4.4	6.4
Perkins	PG	22/05	100	68.2	94	106	63	6.0	7.5
AberNiche #	S	23/05	101	66.3	101	112	57	5.6	6.6
AberOpal	PG	23/05	101	70.2	97	93	67	7.3	6.3
RGT Cordial	PG	23/05	103	70.6	107	86.6	61	5.1	6.8
AberGarnet	PG	24/05	102	69.5	98	93	60	3.8	7.2
Kirial	G	24/05	102	69.4	98	100	61	6.4	6.9
Perseus #	S	25/05	101	67.1	98	101	59	6.7	5.9
AberImage	PS	28/05	101	67.7	99	97	58	2.4	6.6

Festulolium type variety

G General Use **S** Recommended for Specific Use

PG Provisional General Use Recommendation **PS** Provisional Specific Use Recommendation

Timothy varieties

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

Variety	RL status	Heading date	Simulated grazing management			Conservation management				
			Total annual yield Average = 100 at 9.14 t DM/ha	D-value Midsummer	ME yield (% of 106,000 MJ/ha)	Total annual yield Average = 100 at 13.28 t DM/ha	D-value 2nd conservation cut	ME yield 1st & 2nd cut yr 1 (% of 98,000 MJ/ha)	Ground cover %	Drechslera resistance 1 = poor 9 = good
Presto	G	07/06	100	72.2	101	101	64.8	101	74	7.0
Comer	G	07/06	100	71.4	99	100	64.8	99	73	6.9
Dolina	G	07/06	103	71.2	102	101	64.5	101	72	7.0
Promesse	S	08/06	96	72.5	97	96	66.0	97	76	6.8
Comtal	G	09/06	100	71.7	100	99	64.1	97	75	6.7
Winnetou	G	09/06	97	73.7	99	100	67.0	103	77	6.6
Baronaïse	PG	12/06	101	73.7	104	98	68.3	99	73	-

G General Use **S** Recommended for Specific Use

PG Provisional General Use Recommendation **PS** Provisional Specific Use Recommendation

White Clover varieties

Large clover varieties are best for cutting and cattle grazing. Small clover varieties are best for sheep grazing.

Variety	RL status	Leaf area (mm ²)	Total yield of clover	Total yield of grass + clover	Autumn ground cover %	
			3rd harvest year Average = 100 at 4.14 t DM/ha	3rd harvest year Average = 100 at 9.72 t DM/ha	After light defoliation	After hard defoliation
AberAce	G	405	69	89	49	60
Aberystwyth S.184	G	599	75	93	51	57
Coolfin	G	731	95	97	55	59
AberHerald	G	733	108	102	57	52
Quartz	PG	741	93	101	57	71
Iona	G	793	98	97	55	55
AberSwan	G	890	112	104	57	56
Dublin	G	913	111	105	54	54
AberSirius	PS	928	120	110	58	48
Violin	G	1012	108	102	58	56
Barblanca	G	1036	110	103	58	65
Clodagh	PG	1038	132	110	65	57
Legacy	PG	1080	108	107	53	57
Kakariki	PG	1250	114	103	53	57
Aran	G	1286	105	101	53	45
Brianna	G	1389	113	102	55	51

Varieties are listed from top to bottom in increasing clover size.

Lucerne varieties

Variety	Conservation management	Seasonal growth 1st harvest year	
	Total yield Average = 100 at 12.29 t/ha	Yield of 1st cut in 1st harvest year Average = 100 at 3.89 t/ha	Crude protein % in 1st cut of 1st harvest year
Daisy	100	100	18.0
Cigale	103	107	17.8
Andantino	98	103	18.5

G General Use **S** Recommended for Specific Use

PG Provisional General Use Recommendation **PS** Provisional Specific Use Recommendation

Red Clover varieties

Good for cutting and finishing stock in the autumn.

Variety	RL status	Conservation management					
		Yield of 1st cut in 1st harvest year Average = 100 at 5.25 t DM/ha	Total annual yield Average = 100 at 12.06 t 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	S	107	96	17.1	18.6	18.8	52
Lemmon	G	102	98	17.6	19.1	19.2	62
AberClaret	G	98	101	17.0	18.0	18.5	59
Harmonie	G	100	98	18.3	19.3	20.0	66
Sinope	G	105	100	17.8	18.8	19.4	61
Fearga	G	94	100	17.1	17.9	18.5	60
Ganymed	PG	104	104	16.6	17.6	18.7	63
Tetraploids							
Amos	G	101	98	18.1	19.3	19.7	60
Atlantis	G	105	101	17.8	19.7	19.7	61
Magellan	G	102	102	18.0	19.5	19.9	62

Cocksfoot varieties

Variety	Conservation management		Seasonal growth			
	Total annual yield Average = 100 at 4.34 t/ha	D-value 1st conservation cut	Yield of 1st cut in 1st harvest year Average = 100 at 5.32 t/ha	D-value Midsummer	Ground cover %	Winter hardiness 1 = poor 9 = good
Sparta	95	63.8	97	66.5	69	6.1
Lidacta	100	63.1	101	67.0	72	5.4
RGT Lovely	106	63.8	102	67.9	70	-

Useful contacts



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What's different in this year's RGCL?

New varieties

On the 2024/25 RGCL, 11 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
Bigdyl	IRG Dip	18
Exotyl	IRG Dip	18
Kubicek	Festulolium Hexaploid (Hybrid table)	20
AberTweed	Inter PRG Dip	14
Farmington	Inter PRG Dip	14
Bomium	Late PRG Dip	16
AberForth	Late PRG Tet	17
AstonGlory	Late PRG Tet	17
Richhill	Late PRG Tet	17
Cigale	Lucerne	22
Andantino	Lucerne	22

Index of varieties

A–Z of all varieties listed and which page you can find them.

Name	Type	Page	Name	Type	Page	Name	Type	Page
AberAce	WC	22	AberWolf	IPRG	14	Barmultra II	IRG	19
AberAvon	LPRG	16	Aberyswyth S.184	WC	22	Baronaise	TIM	21
AberBann	LPRG	17	AberZeus	IPRG	14	Barsilo	HRG	20
AberChoice	LPRG	17	Abys	IRG	18	Barwave	EPRG	13
AberClaret	RC	23	Agaska	IPRG	14	Bigdyl	IRG	18
AberDon	LPRG	17	Alamo	IRG	18	Bijou	LPRG	17
AberEcho	HRG	20	Alecto	IPRG	14	Bomium	LPRG	16
AberForth	LPRG	17	Amos	RC	23	Bowie	LPRG	17
AberGain	LPRG	17	Andantino	LU	22	Brianna	WC	22
AberGarnet	HRG	20	Aran	WC	22	Callan	LPRG	16
AberGreen	IPRG	14	Arman	IRG	19	Cancan	LPRG	17
AberHerald	WC	22	Aspect	LPRG	17	Charfield	LPRG	17
AberImage	HRG	20	AstonCrusader	HRG	20	Chatsworth	IPRG	15
AberLee	LPRG	17	AstonEnergy	IPRG	15	Cigale	LU	22
AberMagic	IPRG	14	AstonGlory	LPRG	17	Clodagh	WC	22
AberNiche	HRG	20	AstonKing	LPRG	16	Comer	TIM	21
AberOpal	HRG	20	AstonVision	IPRG	15	Comtal	TIM	21
AberRoot	IPRG	15	Atlantis	RC	23	Convey	IPRG	15
AberSevern	LPRG	16	Ballintoy	LPRG	17	Cooky	EPRG	13
AberSheen	HRG	20	Ballyvoy	LPRG	16	Coolfin	WC	22
AberSirius	WC	22	Banbridge	IPRG	15	Crossgar	LPRG	16
AberSpey	IPRG	15	Bandon	LPRG	16	Daisy	LU	22
AberSwan	WC	22	Bannfoot	HRG	20	Delika	LPRG	17
AberTest	LPRG	16	Barblanca	WC	22	Dolina	TIM	21
AberThames	LPRG	17	Barclamp	HRG	20	Doluga	IRG	18
AberTorch	EPRG	13	Barimax	IRG	19	Drumbo	LPRG	16
AberTweed	IPRG	14	Barlaunch	HRG	20	Dublin	WC	22

Name	Type	Page	Name	Type	Page	Name	Type	Page
Dundrod	LPRG	16	Kendal	LPRG	16	Promesse	TIM	21
Dunluce	IPRG	15	Kigezi 1	IRG	19	Quartz	WC	22
Enduro	HRG	20	Kirial	HRG	20	RGT Cordial	HRG	20
Erinvale	IPRG	15	Kubicek	HRG	20	RGT Lovely	CFT	23
Exotyl	IRG	18	Legacy	WC	22	Richhill	LPRG	17
Farmington	IPRG	14	Lemmon	RC	23	Ritchie	IPRG	15
Fearga	RC	23	Lidacta	CFT	23	Seagoe	IPRG	15
Federer	IPRG	15	Magellan	RC	23	Sendero	IRG	18
Fintona	IPRG	15	Meiduno	LPRG	17	Shakira	IRG	18
Fox	IRG	18	Melprimo	IRG	18	Sinope	RC	23
Galgorm	IPRG	14	Melsitra	IRG	19	Sparta	CFT	23
Ganymed	RC	23	Melsprinter	IRG	19	Swan	LPRG	17
Genesis	EPRG	13	Merviot	RC	23	Syntilla	IRG	18
Glasker	EPRG	13	Messina	IRG	19	Tetragraze	HRG	20
Glenarm	LPRG	16	Moira	IPRG	14	Thegn	LPRG	17
Gleneagle	LPRG	16	Moyola	EPRG	13	Timing	LPRG	17
Goldwell	IPRG	14	Muriello	IRG	18	Timuco	LPRG	17
Gosford	IPRG	14	Nashota	LPRG	17	Toddington	LPRG	16
Gracehill	LPRG	17	Nifty	IPRG	14	Tollymore	IPRG	15
Graphic	LPRG	16	Nolwen	IPRG	15	Udine	IRG	19
Harmonie	RC	23	Oakpark	LPRG	16	Utopial	HRG	20
Harrenhal	LPRG	16	Pensel	IPRG	15	Violin	WC	22
Hopi	LPRG	17	Perkins	HRG	20	Weldone	LPRG	17
Hunter	IRG	19	Perseus	HRG	20	Wetherby	LPRG	16
Iona	WC	22	Pinaco	IRG	18	Winnetou	TIM	21
Jaccar	IRG	18	Pirol	HRG	20	Zorgue	LPRG	17
Kakariki	WC	22	Presto	TIM	21			

KEY

CFT	Cocksfoot	LPRG	Late Perennial Ryegrass
EPRG	Early Perennial Ryegrass	LU	Lucerne
HRG	Hybrid Ryegrass	RC	Red Clover
IPRG	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	TIM	Timothy
IRG	Italian Ryegrass	WC	White Clover

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 britishgrassland.com/product-category/recommended-grass-and-clover-lists/ and ahdb.org.uk



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 voluntaryinitiative.org.uk