

WILLIAM SHEARER

Estd.



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**Ecological Focus Areas (EFA)
&
Agri-Environmental Climate
Scheme (AECS)**

**Seed Mixture Options
2026**

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EFA

Ecological Focus Areas

From 2025, Scottish Farmers with more than 15 hectares of arable land (including Temporary Grass TGRS) must meet new Ecological Focus Area (EFA) rules, as previous exceptions have been removed. They are required to allocate 5% of this land to EFAs, with plans to increase this to 7% in 2027. A map of the EFA area must be retained on farm and be available if required for inspection. We also advise farmers to retain official mixture labels from seed bags for future inspections.

We are pleased to present our list of mixtures for farmers coming under the EFA regulations and those who have an existing AECS scheme.

Green Cover Trials 2025

The harvest of 2025 proved an ideal year for establishing a greening or forage crop with many fields cut and cleared by mid-August. This gave greening trials by the Orkney Agronomy Centre, an ideal start with fine weather through September aiding establishment. In what we would call, a typical Orkney harvest, sowing of greening would normally be taking place in early to mid-September, giving little opportunity for seed establishment.

To get some benefit from these crops, our local Agricultural Contractors have invested in machinery suitable for one-pass over-seeding after harvest. It is also possible to apply greening or a forage crop before harvest, with a fertiliser spreader in the tramlines. This method was used by a contractor in Caithness last year, 3 weeks before harvest, with the seed germinating within a week. However, the young seedlings were practically destroyed by the harvesting and baling machinery.

The ideal time for this method of sowing would be 7-10 days before harvest, when the harvesting machinery could prove beneficial by rolling in the seed. If a forage type mix for post-Christmas grazing is used, it could be mixed with fertiliser to improve distribution and speed establishment.

EFA GREEN COVER (0.3 Weighting)

This option requires a mix of at least 2 different seeds overseeded into barley or oat stubble in the Autumn. The mix needs to be established by 1st November (realistically, sow just as soon as the bales have been removed) and maintained up until 31st December. Thereafter, it can be grazed from 1st November and ploughed in the next year to provide a green manure for the following crop.

Green Cover Mix WSGC1A

An economy mix, for quick establishment, providing ground cover, soil retention and improved soil structure.

3.00kg Mustard

2.50kg Fodder Radish

0.50kg Phacelia

6.00kgs / acre

Green Cover Mix WSGC1B

A lower cost mixture option for farmers supplying their own grain (price is for greening mix only).

10.00kg Barley

2.50kg Green Cover Mix WS1A

12.50kgs / acre

Green Cover Grazing Mix WSGC1C

This mix has been formulated for those with sheep and if sowing takes place in August, it could provide grazing potential after the retention period of 31st December. This option would benefit from an application of 50kgs of fertiliser (20.10.10 or 16.16.16) to improve establishment. The seed could be mixed with fertiliser for a single pass.

1.50kg Gorilla Forage Rape

2.00kg Akela Forage Rape

0.25kg Samson Stubble Turnip

0.25kg Rondo Stubble Turnip

4.00kgs acre

EFA LOW INPUT GRASSLAND (0.2 Weighting)

This must be on Permanent Grassland declared as PGRS, not Rough Grazing (RGR). It must therefore be grazed or, if cut, a 3 metre margin must be left. No inorganic fertiliser can be used, only Organic fertiliser, such as slurry or dung. The field can be grazed all year.

EFA CATCH CROP (0.3 Weighting)

This option will prove a popular choice for those reseeded stubbles. Spring Barley or Oats can be undersown with a short term or, as in most cases, a Long-Term Grass Mixture.

The grain crop can be combined or cut as arable silage. However, if claimed under EFA rules and cut for arable silage, you will not be paid LFASS on the area.

For a comprehensive list of short and long-term grass mixtures, ask for a copy of our 2026 Forage Seed Catalogue.

EFA FALLOW (1.0 weighting)

This option must be on arable land from 15th January until 15th July. You must establish during the fallow period a ground cover of either, Temporary Grassland (TGRS), a Wild Flower Mix, a Wild Bird Seed Mix or a Soil Conditioning Crop. After the 15th July fallow period, you have the option to graze, desiccate or plough in the cover crop and establish an autumn reseed.

For the cover crop, we recommend rotavating in Spring, followed by ploughing to establish an Autumn reseed.

Fallow Soil Conditioning Crop WSFSCC

As well as providing a habitat for birds and nectar source for bees, this cover crop mix is quick to establish with the ability to suppress weeds and improve soil structure. The plants will not fix nitrogen but will have the ability to lift and store nitrogen which, when incorporated into the soil after the 15th July, will be of benefit to the following crop

3.50kg Mustard
0.50kg Linseed
1.00kg Phacelia
5.00kgs / acre

Fallow Soil Conditioner & Nitrogen Fixer WSFSCNF

This mix qualifies as a Wild Flower Mix as it provides a habitat for birds and insects and is an excellent source of nectar for bees. The land and following crop will also benefit from the nitrogen fixing properties of the Berseem and Crimson Clover. Crop must be maintained until 15th July

3.00kg Berseem Clover
1.50kg Crimson Clover
0.50kg Phacelia
5.00kgs / acre

Fallow Forage Mix WSFF

This option qualifies as a Wild Bird Seed Mix designed for those with sheep looking to establish a forage break crop. We recommend late May, early June sowing for Autumn / pre Christmas grazing for sheep & lambs.

2.00kg Gorilla Forage Rape
1.25kg Akela Forage Rape
0.25kg Maris Kestrel Kale
0.50kg Samson Stubble Turnip
4.00kgs / acre

Fallow Temporary Grassland WSFTG

Temporary grassland (TGRS) must be less than 5 years old. For this option you are required to over-seed the grass with at least 3 flowering species during the fallow period. However, as cutting can only take place after 15th July, the grass would be well seeded by then and may be best cut for hay. This mix assumes that white clover is present in the mix.

1.75kg Crimson Clover
1.25kg Berseem Clover
3.00kgs / acre

HERB & LEGUME RICH PASTURE (1.5 Weighting)

Our herbal ley mixtures contain a diverse mix of grasses, legumes and herbs, designed to provide season long grazing & cutting. The deep rooting varieties will improve soil structure, and uptake of essential vitamins and minerals. If grazing only, may require occasional topping to maintain quality.

Must be established in arable / stubble land or (TGRS) but not (PGRS). After 5 years, classed as (PGRS). Can be grazed all year round. No inorganic Nitrogen fertiliser to be used, you could apply bagged P & K along with slurry or dung. The Rural Payments and Inspection Division (RPID) guidance suggests this must be established by 1st July.

5 Year Ley - Herbal & Legume Cutting & Grazing Mix WSHLG Basic

1.25kg Caledon (T)	Inter. Perennial
2.00kg Goldwell	Inter. Perennial
1.75kg Agaska	Inter. Perennial
1.50kg Spectre (T)	Late “
1.50kg Ballyvoy	Late “
2.00kg Callan	Late “
1.00kg Glenrock	Late “
1.00kg Comer	Timothy
1.25kg AberRoot	Festulolium
0.25kg Choice	Chicory Herb
0.50kg Tonic	Plantain Herb
0.25kg Alsike	Clover
0.25kg Crusader	Medium Leaf White Clover
0.25kg Merwi	Medium “ “ “
0.25kg Jura	Small “ “ “
15.00kgs / acre	

5 Year Ley - Herbal & Legume Cutting & Grazing Mix WSHLG Enhanced

Our enhanced Herbal and Legume Mix is designed for lighter soils. It has all the benefits of our Standard Mix, but with an increased diversity of deeper rooting grass.

1.25kg Caledon (T)	Intermediate Perennial
2.25kg Raccoon	Intermediate Perennial
1.50kg Goldwell	Intermediate Perennial
2.00kg Spectre (T)	Late “
2.50kg Callan	Late “
1.25kg AberRoot	Festulolium
0.50kg Evora	Smooth Stalked Meadow Grass
1.00kg Comer	Timothy
0.25kg Choice	Chicory Herb
0.50kg Tonic	Plantain Herb
0.50kg Burnet	Forage Herb
0.50kg Alsike	Clover
0.25kg Alice	Large Leaf White Clover
0.25kg Dublin	Medium Leaf White Clover
0.25kg Merwi	Medium “ “ “
0.25kg Jura	Small “ “ “
15.00kgs / acre	

5 Year Ley – Herb & Legume Grazing Mix WSHLCG

Our herbal grazing ley provides a varied mix of grasses legumes & herbs for early turnout and throughout the grazing season. This mix will not only improve soil structure but the deep rooting varieties will also draw up essential vitamins and minerals. May require occasional topping to maintain quality.

1.25kg Caledon (T)	Inter. Perennial		
2.00kg Goldwell	“	“	
1.50kg Agaska	“	“	
1.25kg Spectre (T)	Late Perennial		
1.25kg Callan	“	“	
1.50kg Glenrock	“	“	
1.00kg Comer	Timothy		
0.50kg Bardoux	Tall Fescue		
1.25kg Laura	Meadow Fescue		
1.25kg AberRoot	Festulolium		
0.25kg Burnet	Herb		
0.25kg Choice	Chicory Herb		
0.50kg Tonic	Plantain Herb		
0.25kg Pastor	Grazing Red Clover		
0.25kg Alsike	Clover		
0.25kg Crusader	Med Large	“	“
0.25kg Merwi	Med Leaf	“	“
0.25kg Jura	Sml Leaf	“	“
15.00kgs / acre			

SOWING A HERBAL LEY

Ensure the seeds are sown into warm, moist soil, as legumes, clovers and herbs need 8-10 degrees to germinate. This is typically from late April until the start of August. (For EFA, the RPID guidance suggest this must be established by 1st July). Seeds are small, so sow with a broadcast or drill no deeper than 1 cm. The main reason for poor establishment is when seeds are sown too deep.

Roll twice after sowing for the soil-seed contact. Remember, choose a sowing method that will work best with your system.

If planning an overseeding, cut or graze hard, or harrow to open sward. This will also reduce competition. Broadcast the seed and leave stock off for 4-6 weeks to prevent damage.

Protect seedlings for 6-8 weeks post sowing, then lightly graze. This will help weed control and encourage tillering.

Rotational grazing is the best way to manage herbal leys. Rotations can be anything between 20-40 days but are typically 28-38 days. Set stocking on herbal leys can lead to reduced species diversity in the ley, as livestock will selectively graze the palatable species.

Herbal cutting mixtures are designed for a single cut of silage in early to mid June. To maintain quality and plant diversity we recommend a cutting height of 4” and to avoid overgrazing or poaching.

AECS

Agri-Environment Climate Scheme

We are pleased to offer the following tried and tested mixtures for those on the AECS scheme.

AECS Seed for Farmland Birds WSAECSWB

0.50kg Mustard
0.25kg Phacelia
0.50kg Buckwheat
0.50kg Fodder Radish
0.50kg Linseed
0.25kg Borage
0.50kg Crimson Clover
3.00kgs / acre + Oats/Barley

AECS Brassica Mix for Farmland Birds WSAECSBM

This mix is ideal for providing winter cover and food source for a wide range of farmland and migrating birds. The rules state, that once established in spring and summer, the crop must not be grazed or cultivated before 1st March the following year.

70% Akela Forage Rape
15% Caledonian Kale
15% Massif Turnip
100%

AECS STUBBLE TO GREEN MANURE IN AN ARABLE ROTATION

Green cover crops protect the soil against run off, improve biodiversity and, when ploughed in, add to the organic soil matter. During the summer months when in full flower, this mix will provide a rich source of pollen for bees and other insects. The crimson clover will provide a source of nitrogen for the following crop.

Stubble to Green Manure WSSGM

1.50KG Mustard
2.00kg Buckwheat
1.00kg Fodder Radish
0.25kg Phacelia
1.25kg Crimson Clover
6.00kgs / acre

Stubble to Green Manure Nitrogen Fixer WSSGMNF

A ground cover mix to meet the requirements of the AECS scheme. “Nitrogen Fixer” as the name suggests has the added bonus of fixing nitrogen for the following crop. Vetch is a fast growing, scrambling annual legume, which will also suppress weeds. The Berseem Clover provides a fast, growing biomass and nitrogen fixation, while the Crimson Clover, not only adds colour, but also contributes to the soil nitrogen.

3.25kg Common Vetch
1.25kg Berseem Clover
1.50kg Crimson Clover
6.00kgs / acre

*Our third century of trading.
Still growing strong.*

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