

— AUTUMN 2020

Organic Grass Seed Mixtures



Welcome to the latest edition of our Organic Grass Seed brochure.

Cope Seeds are leading producers of organic seed and have a wealth of experience and knowledge in this field with our Grass & Small Seeds Specialist, Duncan Hendry having spent 35 years advising and selling grass seed and myself, having 40 years' experience on the same subject.



Due to the adverse weather conditions at time of harvest, there has been a great shortage of organic grass and clover seed and this has been reflected by the fact that the Organic certifying bodies gave the go ahead this year to reduce the minimum organic requirement for mixtures to be reduced to 50% from the normal 70% but even taking this into account, to get the first choice varieties, early ordering is advisable.

Although we are able to offer a comprehensive range of standard mixtures to cover most situations, if you feel that you have a special requirement which is not covered by one of these mixtures, we are more than happy to put together a special mixture tailored to your individual need.

We look forward to helping and advising you on your grass and small seed requirements, including cover crops and environmental stewardship mixtures.

All the best.



Simon Travers

GRASS & SMALL SEEDS MANAGER

Organic Vetch Express (50% Organic)

2.0 kg	ORGANIC Tetraploid Italian Ryegrass
3.0 kg	Tetraploid Italian Ryegrass
4.0 kg	Diploid Italian Ryegrass
2.0 kg	Broad Red Clover
1.0 kg	Crimson Clover
8.0 kg	ORGANIC Vetch

20.0 kilos per acre

— ABOUT

A 1 year mixture designed to produce large amounts of forage in a relatively short space of time. Although formulated to provide one big cut, there will be some regrowth from this mixture for a second smaller cut or aftermath grazing and with the high legume content (vetch, crimson and red clover) this mixture will also act as an excellent soil improver, releasing large amounts of nitrogen into the soil when ploughed in.

Organic 1-2 Year ley (50% Organic)

2.5 kg	ORGANIC Diploid Italian Ryegrass
3.5 kg	Diploid Italian Ryegrass
4.0 kg	ORGANIC Tetraploid Italian Ryegrass
3.0 kg	Broad Red Clover

13.0 kilos per acre

— ABOUT

A grass mixture formulated to provide large cuts of protein rich hay or silage. It can also be grazed if required and is ideal for lamb fattening. When ploughed up, the red clover will leave good quantities of residual nitrogen in the soil for the following crop.

Organic Soil Improver/Fertility Builder (50% Organic)

2.5 kg	ORGANIC Tetraploid Hybrid Ryegrass
4.5 kg	Tetraploid Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
2.5 kg	ORGANIC Broad Red Clover
0.5 kg	Large Leaved White Clover

10.0 kilos per acre

— ABOUT

A 1-2 year mixture formulated to add fertility and structure to the soil. Quick to grow, this mixture should also act as a natural weed suppressant. Ideally, this mixture should be topped regularly during the growing period of the ley and when ploughed in will release large amounts of nitrogen into the soil to be utilized by the following crop.

Organic 3-4 year White Clover Ley (50% Organic)

3.50 kg	ORGANIC Tetraploid Hybrid Ryegrass
2.75 kg	Tetraploid Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
3.25 kg	ORGANIC Diploid Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
2.50 kg	Diploid Late Perennial Ryegrass
0.50 kg	Large Leaved White Clover
0.50 kg	Medium Leaved White Clover
0.50 kg	Medium Small Leaved White Clover

13.5 kilos per acre

— ABOUT

Ideal both for cutting and grazing, this mixture will produce a clover rich sward, full of protein and trace elements. The white clover will fix good quantities of atmospheric nitrogen which it will release into the soil for the grass to utilise. This ley will be more persistent than the shorter term mixtures.

Organic 3-4 Year Ley – Red Clover Ley (50% Organic)

2.5 kg	ORGANIC Tetraploid Italian Ryegrass
4.0 kg	ORGANIC Tetraploid Hybrid Ryegrass
3.5 kg	Diploid Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
3.0 kg	Broad Red Clover

13.0 kilos per acre

— ABOUT

A 3-4 year mixture formulated mainly for cutting although it can be aftermath grazed if required. This will provide high yields of protein rich hay or silage. Red Clover is relatively easy to establish and is higher yielding than white clover. Care should be taken when grazing high red clover swards as the high oestrogen levels in red clover can affect the fertility of ewes if grazed by them.

Organic 5-7 Year Ley (50% Organic)

3.75 kg	ORGANIC Diploid Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
3.00 kg	ORGANIC Tetraploid Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
3.25 kg	Diploid Late Perennial Ryegrass
2.00 kg	Tetraploid Late Perennial Ryegrass
0.40 kg	Large Leaved White Clover
0.60 kg	Medium Leaved White Clover
0.50 kg	Medium Small Leaved White Clover

13.5 kilos per acre

— ABOUT

A flexible 5-7 year ley that can, not only be cut for hay or silage, but equally will provide high quality grazing for cattle or sheep. The good proportion of White Clover will both fix atmospheric nitrogen to supply the companion grass but will also add protein and trace elements to the animal's diet.

Organic Permanent Pasture (50% Organic)

3.5 kg	ORGANIC Diploid Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
1.5 kg	ORGANIC Tetraploid Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
3.5 kg	Diploid Late Perennial Ryegrass
2.5 kg	Tetraploid Late Perennial Ryegrass
1.5 kg	ORGANIC Timothy
1.0 kg	ORGANIC Meadow Fescue
0.3 kg	Large Leaved White Clover
0.6 kg	Medium Leaved White Clover
0.6 kg	Medium Small Leaved White Clover

15.0 kilos per acre

— ABOUT

A permanent pasture mixture, using a selection of grass varieties with a good spread of heading dates. This should provide excellent, season long grazing. The mixture can also be cut for hay or silage if required. The Timothy is included to add to the palatability of the sward whilst Meadow Fescue is not only winter hardy but is more productive than Perennial Ryegrass in mid summer. A balanced selection of clover varieties are included to add extra protein to the sward whilst also providing a good source of nitrogen.

Organic Cockle Park (50% Organic)

2.75 kg	ORGANIC Diploid Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
2.25 kg	ORGANIC Tetraploid Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
3.00 kg	Diploid Late Perennial Ryegrass
2.00 kg	Tetraploid Late Perennial Ryegrass
1.50 kg	ORGANIC Timothy
1.00 kg	ORGANIC Meadow Fescue
1.00 kg	Cocksfoot
0.35 kg	Large Leaved White Clover
0.55 kg	Medium Leaved White Clover
0.60 kg	Small Leaved White Clover

15.0 kilos per acre

— ABOUT

Formulated for upland use or in areas of lower fertility, the Cockle Park mixture not only contains a good selection of Perennial Ryegrass varieties but also quantities of Timothy, Meadow Fescue and Cocksfoot which have shown to be better suited to less than ideal conditions or soil types and tend to have a lower nutrient requirement. With the high rate of white clover, once established, a ready source of nitrogen is provided for the companion grasses.

Herbal Ley (50% Organic)

2.0 kg	ORGANIC Tetraploid Hybrid Ryegrass
3.0 kg	ORGANIC Diploid Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
1.35 kg	Meadow Fescue
1.75 kg	ORGANIC Timothy
1.50 kg	Cocksfoot
0.40 kg	Broad Red Clover
0.40 kg	Large Leaved White Clover
0.50 kg	Alsike Clover

0.50 kg	Birdsfoot Trefoil
0.70 kg	Yellow Sweet Clover
0.30 kg	Chicory
0.20 kg	Ribwort Plantain
0.30 kg	Burnet
0.20 kg	Sheeps Parsley
0.10 kg	Yarrow

13.0 kilos per acre

— ABOUT

A diverse mixture of grasses, clovers and herbs, formulated to produce a sward ideal for grazing or cutting. This will not only provide quality forage but also with the deep rooting herbs help to improve soil structure and draw up essential vitamins and minerals for ruminant animals.

Organic Overseeder (50% Organic)

2.5 kg	ORGANIC Tetraploid Italian Ryegrass
3.0 kg	ORGANIC Tetraploid Hybrid Ryegrass
4.5 kg	Tetraploid Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass
1.0 kg	Large Leaved White Clover

11.0 kilos per acre

— ABOUT

Ideal for overseeding either damaged pastures or ones that are showing signs of wear, this mixture can be direct drilled into the existing sward or can be broadcast. If broadcast, ideally the sward should have just been cut or grazed. A passing of a chain harrow will open up the sward and then after broadcasting the seed, a roller (preferably a ring roller) should be used which not only presses the seed into the soil but also re-firms up the surface creating a better environment for the seed to germinate into.

— SPECIAL MIXTURES

We are only too happy to quote for any mixture of your own formulation, please telephone Simon on 01529 421081 or email simon@copeseeds.co.uk for price and availability. Non-organic mixtures are also available from Cope Seeds.

— SUBSTITUTIONS

Although Cope Seeds stocks an extensive range of grass seed varieties, there may from time to time be a situation where the variety listed in this brochure is not available. Cope Seeds reserves the right to substitute any unavailable variety with a suitable alternative.

Herbal Leys

Herbal Leys contain a wide diversity of grass species together with clovers and herbs to produce a well-balanced forage that can provide increased levels of minerals and vitamins to grazing livestock.

Due to the deep rooting growth habit of many of these herbs, they are able to make use of nutrients located deep in the soil and if grown for 3-4 years this deep rooting ability should also substantially improve the soil structure and fertility for following crops.

Herbal leys are an excellent provider of a balanced natural forage that will give good animal performance in terms of liveweight gain or milk production. Many of these herbs also contain trace elements that have been shown to have good health benefits for the stock that are grazing on them.

While modern trends have been towards simple mixtures containing 3 or 4 varieties of ryegrass plus a couple of varieties of clover, a herbal mixture contains a diverse combination of species, each one contributing in some way to the sward. While these mixtures tend to be more expensive than a conventional ley this is more than offset by the improved performance and health of the animal.

Herbal Leys should ideally be sown after an application of manure, either FYM or after incorporating a green manure. The species used in these mixtures are in the main, small seeded and therefore need to be sown relatively shallow into a well worked seedbed. Once sown, the seed should be rolled immediately after sowing to ensure good seed to soil contact. Ideally, the seed should be sown from March through to mid-September. Due to the speed of establishment of some of these species, any thoughts of later sowings should really be postponed until the following spring.

Some of the species included in our herbal mixture: **Chicory** has good tolerance to drought, acid soils and major pests and has a high mineral content including Zinc, Potassium and Copper.

Ribwort/Plantain is a deep-rooted herb that will withstand drought and higher temperatures, it is high in protein and will tolerate frequent grazing.

Burnet is a deep-rooted herb that draws up minerals and trace elements from deep in the soil. Winter hardy and drought tolerant, Burnet is a herb that grows throughout most of the year.

Sheeps Parsley is another very palatable deep rooting herb which not only adds to the forage quality. Lifting minerals from deep into the soil but also acts as a soil improver.

Yarrow is a perennial herb which also has a large tap root which burrows deep into the soil to find minerals and trace elements and also acts as a soil improver.

Sweet Clover is one of the most drought-tolerant of forage legumes, and is quite winter-hardy. In temperate climates with mild summers it can survive and thrive through a second year of production. Sweet clover grows where Lucerne, red clover and white clover fail, in areas such as clay pan soils or on sands and tolerates low fertility and wet conditions. While not a huge forage producer, sweet clover has a valuable taproot growth that penetrates deep down in soil - up to five feet. This deep tap root and root branches give sweet clover a greater ability than most other crops in extracting potassium, phosphorus and other soil nutrients from insoluble minerals. Root branches take in minerals from seldom-disturbed soil horizons, nutrients that become available as the tops and roots decompose.

Birdsfoot Trefoil is a perennial legume that can provide excellent nutritional value to pasture and additional summer production when grasses often go into a growth slump. Trefoil's branched, relatively shallow taproot makes it less drought tolerant than species like Lucerne, but it's tolerant of poorly drained and somewhat acid soils. This factor combined with high forage quality, zero bloat potential, excellent grazing tolerance, natural reseeding capability, and the potential for a long stand life, make it an ideal pasture legume.

Catch Crops

Looking for something to sow between harvest and putting in a spring crop that will give some feed or grazing? Catch crops such as Italian ryegrass, stubble turnips or forage rape are ideal crops to put in from July onwards for late autumn/winter utilisation either as single crops or as a mixture.



— ITALIAN/WESTERWOLDS RYEGRASS

Sown at 12.5-14 kilos per acre (32-35 kilos per hectare), a Westerwolds/Italian ryegrass mixture can provide a late cut or light grazing in the autumn followed by a further cut or grazing in the spring. This can be left to provide further cuts before a planting the next autumn or can be taken out to sow a spring crop. A mixture like this will also act as a good cover crop, lifting and holding nitrogen from the soil and releasing it back on ploughing in. The roots and fibre from the grass will also help to give body to the soil.



— FORAGE RAPE

Sown at 2.5-3 kilos per acre (6-8 kilos per hectare) forage rape is an economical crop to sow which can provide nutritious fodder for late autumn/winter grazing especially for finishing lambs. Ready to utilize 12-14 weeks from sowing forage rape can be sown either alone or in combination with stubble turnips or for added winter hardiness some of the relatively new fodder rape x kale crosses.



— STUBBLE TURNIP

Sown at 2-3 kilos per acre (5-7.5 kilos per hectare), stubble turnips are again a very economical crop to grow with a potential fresh weight yield of around 40 tonnes per hectare in around 12 weeks from sowing. Some varieties with more leaf than bulb are ideal for earlier sowing and feeding in the Autumn while bulbing types will last longer into the winter. Tyfon is a stubble turnip/Chinese cabbage cross and is all leaf and little or no bulb.



— RAPE X KALE HYBRID

A new generation of forage crops, combining the quick growing capabilities of forage rape with the winter hardiness of kale. Ideal for later feeding they are an ideal sown as a single crop or as part of a forage mixture. The sowing rate is the same as conventional forage rape - 2-3 kilos per acre (5-7.5 kilos per hectare).



— FORAGE RYE

With a far higher sowing rate (75 kilos per acre or 185 kilos per hectare) and therefore expensive compared to brassica crops, Forage Rye will grow in lower temperatures than most crops so is ideal for an early bite in the Spring. If sown early enough, there is the potential for a late Autumn grazing which is ideal to help the plants tiller.

Fast Grass Mixture 1 (25 Kilo Packs)

— INFORMATION

- Rapid establishment, ideal for a late sowing
- May provide a late autumn cut if sown early enough
- Will provide a cut or grazing in spring

— DETAIL

50% Westerwolds Ryegrass
 25% Diploid Italian Ryegrass
 25% Tetraploid Italian Ryegrass
 Sowing Rate: 12.5 - 14 kilos per acre

Supreme Catch Crop (5 Kilo Packs)

— INFORMATION

- Sow May - late August
- Optimum utilisation period is 10-12 weeks from sowing
- Best suited to sheep enterprises (finishing lambs or as late autumn and early/mid-winter sheep keep)

— DETAIL

35% Forage Rape
 65% Stubble Turnip
 Sowing Rate: 2-3 kilos per acre
 (5-7.5 kilos per hectare)

Supreme Mid-Winter Keep (4 Kilo Packs)

— INFORMATION

- Sow early June - early August
- Optimum utilisation period is late autumn through to late January
- Principally a winter-based sheep keep mixture that is cheap to establish and should give an abundance of green feed from late October/early November onwards

— DETAIL

15% Tyfon Forage Brassica (Thiram Treated)
 15% Maincrop Turnip
 45% Stubble Turnip
 25% Forage Kale
 Sowing Rate: 2 kilos per acre (5 kilos per hectare)

Organic Mid-Winter keep (2 Kilo Packs)

— INFORMATION

- Sow Early June - Mid August
- Optimum utilisation period is late Autumn through to January
- A mixture designed to produce a good quantity of nutritious winter sheep keep

— DETAIL

70% Stubble Turnip
 20% Interval Rape x Kale hybrid
 10% Forage Kale
 Sowing Rate: 2 kilos per acre (5 kilos per hectare)

Supreme Late Winter Keep (5 Kilo Packs)

— INFORMATION

- Sow June to early August
- Optimum utilisation period is late December - March
- A mixture of durable brassica species highly suited to mid/late winter sheep keep
- Primarily designed for sheep keep although out-wintered cattle can perform extremely well on this mixture

— DETAIL

40% Interval, Rape x Kale Hybrid
 25% Stubble Turnip
 20% Kale
 15% Maincrop Turnip
 Sowing Rate: 2.5 kilos per acre (6.25 kilos per hectare)

Organic Environmental Stewardship Mixtures

With the environment at the top of the agenda for farmers and subsidy payments, Cope Seeds is able to offer seed mixtures for most requirements, especially when it comes to producing nectar rich plots within the farm or areas to encourage wild birds to feed.

OP1 Overwintered Stubble Mix

— MIX CONTAINS

- 70% Forage Rape
- 30% Stubble Turnip Seed

— ABOUT

This mix will create a winter food source for seed-eating birds and an excellent foraging habitat for small mammals.

Greatly enhances the number of farmland birds using overwintered stubbles.

This mixture provides good overwinter stubble management following the harvest of combinable crops.

Sowing Rate: 4kg/acre or 10kgs/ha | Pack size: 4kg acre packs

OP2 1-2 Year Wild Bird Seed Cover Mix

— MIX CONTAINS

- 65% Organic Triticale/Barley,
- 5% Organic Mustard,
- 3% Kale
- 4% Quinoa
- 10% Linseed
- 10% Fodder Radish
- 3% Red/White Millet

— ABOUT

70% Organic

A 2-year Organic wild bird seed option.

Sow late spring to early summer to give seed shedding in Autumn and right through the winter for feed. The multi inclusion of species provides feed and cover well in to the second year. This mix will attract a range of farmland birds, small mammals and insect life.

Sowing Rate: 20kg/acre or 50kgs/ha | Pack size: 20kg acre packs

OP4 Organic Multi Species Legume/Grass Ley

— MIX CONTAINS

- 20% Organic (Late Dip),
- 23% Organic (Int Tet)
- 12% Organic Red Clover
- 7% Organic Meadow Fescue
- 8% Organic Timothy
- 4% Tall Fescue
- 3% Birdsfoot Trefoil
- 3% Alsike Clover
- 4% Sainfoin
- 3% Chicory
- 3% Cocksfoot
- 1% Yarrow
- 1% Ribwort Plantain
- 7% Burnet
- 1% Sheeps Parsley

— ABOUT

This mixture option is based on the results of considerable research and is designed to encourage pollinators and other insects through the inclusion of multiple species and a long flowering period from April until August. The advantage of legumes as a food source for pollinators is also now recognised and this mix means more of we can do our bit to encourage pollinators and sustain food production.

The inclusion of multiple legumes is advantageous as it has been proven to also significantly improve forage yields.

This complex mixture builds soil fertility and reduces fertiliser reliance.

Seed rate: 14kg/acre or 35kgs/ha
Pack size: 14kg acre packs



Organic Arable Silage Mixtures

Arable silage mixtures are an ideal addition or alternative to grass or maize silage. Quick growing, these mixtures can be taken for silage in 10-12 weeks from sowing or left until 14 -16 weeks to be harvested as whole crop.

At a reduced seeding rate, arable silage mixtures can act as an excellent nurse crop to an undersown grass ley although for successful grass establishment, the arable silage mixture should be harvested no later than 10-12 weeks from sowing.

When thinking about which mixture to choose please bear in mind that there is a large differential in the thousand grain weight of barley (50g), oat (45g), pea (250g) and vetch (50g) so this should be born in mind when selecting the right mixture for your needs.

All mixtures are 70% organic and therefore meet the minimum requirements of the organic certification bodies to be accepted for organic production as either silage or wholecrop. Please be aware that if these mixtures are taken through to the combining stage and are harvested as grain, then a 100% organic mixture must be sown. Like grass mixtures, a derogation form must be submitted but this can be done retrospectively.

Arable Silage Number 1

Probably the most widely sown arable silage mixture, this mixture is high on the barley content with the peas adding a useful protein boost to the mix. This should give a ratio by number of seeds of 85% barley and 15% peas.

60% ORGANIC Spring Barley
10% ORGANIC Spring Peas
30% NON-ORGANIC Spring Peas

Arable Silage Number 2

This mixture, with it's higher pea content will produce a silage or wholecrop that is higher in protein than mixture number 1 and will also leave a useful amount of residual nitrogen for the following crop.

By number of seeds, this should give a ratio of 75% barley & 25% peas.

40% ORGANIC Spring Barley
30% ORGANIC Spring Peas
30% NON-ORGANIC Spring Peas

Arable Silage Number 3

A traditional mixture containing oats as well as barley, oats tend to do well in less favourable conditions or areas of high rainfall.

By number of seeds, this should give a ratio of 41% barley, 47% oats & 12% peas.

30% ORGANIC Spring Barley
30% ORGANIC Spring Oats
40% NON-ORGANIC Spring Peas

Arable Silage Number 4 (New)

A high protein, lower carbohydrate mixture which should also provide large amounts of residual nitrogen for any following crop.

The ratio by number of seeds for this mixture should be 55% barley, 26% peas & 19% vetches.

30% ORGANIC Spring Barley
40% ORGANIC Spring Peas
20% NON-ORGANIC Spring Peas
10% NON-ORGANIC Spring Vetch



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