



REWARD Arable Silage

Spring Barley
Spring Forage Pea

Sown @ 50 Kilo / Acre

LIBERTY Arable Silage

Spring Oats
Spring Forage Pea

Sown @ 50 Kilo / Acre

SPRING SOWN ARABLE SILAGE

The ability to successfully reseed a field after tillage, or grass into grass is vitally important, since a poor grass take, for whatever reason, will not reach its full potential, leaving the farm business at substantial financial and forage loss, over many years.

Problems:

- Many farmers squeeze in an Autumn grass reseed after Winter / Spring cereals only to find problems with cereal regrowth and weed growth; chickweed, especially, is a real problem on high fertility, heavy soils when high Autumn rainfall negates an application of a weed herbicide

- The **loss** of the **effective insecticide Chlorpyrifos**, previously utilised when reseeding from grass to grass on stock farms, makes Autumn reseeding more uncertain

All grass farms (no tillage for cereals), have the additional quandary of **when to reseed** – Spring, Summer or Autumn? Decisions have to be made but with so much at stake, it becomes pressing to make the right informed choices. This is especially tricky if the farm is heavily stocked and unable to withstand any loss of grass production.

How then can we reseed for the future with confidence, ensuring that we obtain the full potential from the grass mixture sown, with maximum profit over the length of the ley?

An old Welsh method is now becoming the **new Welsh method** and is increasingly popular, especially since the termination, of the insecticide **Chlorpyrifos**.

The Welsh grass reseed method:

Instead of reseeding **directly** from grass-to-grass, a **brassica break** is recommended **before** reseeding with grass seed. Plough and sow forage rape or stubble turnips (see page 16), in early Autumn (mid-July to mid-August), and feed Autumn-Winter. Ideally, if you have a further field on the farm (say after a cereal crop), sow **Humbolt** grazing rye (see page 18), in August to September, for grazing late February onwards. You will then have provided stock with a low-cost feed option for Autumn, Winter and Spring: **then** plough for next crop.

Unless the field is totally un-ploughable, Western Seeds does not recommend direct drilling of forage crops or grass, with the exception of *Salvus* – the sward-saver (See Page 10)

After all Autumn-sown forage crops have been utilised in Spring, it is time to consider the best grass seed mixture for sowing under a cover crop.

Western Seeds` Arable Silage Mixtures are a **precise** combination of cereal and **forage peas and are unique** in the U.K.

How do we achieve a first-class reseed in the Spring?

- Plough field in Spring (after Autumn-sown brassica break), and cultivate to a good seed bed
- Drill Arable Silage @ 50 kilo acre
- Broadcast new grass ley **the same day (very important)**
- Roll field

- Harvest Arable Silage, with grass included, in **9 to 10 weeks maximum**
- Yield; 8 X 600 kilo (approx.), big bales per acre

You will have a well-established new weed-free ley by mid-June to mid-July (depending on time of sowing), and with good grassland management the ley will give many years of profit.

Arable Silage as a cover crop is highly recommended when reseeding grass since it achieves a number of important objectives:

- **Arable Silage** will give a palatable forage composed of grass, cereal and peas: **cut at 9 to 10 weeks**
- By cutting at **9 to 10 weeks** there will be no rats in the big bales or clamp because there will be no grain in the arable silage for them to eat.
- **Arable silage** will make up for the loss of silage production when sowing grass in Spring with the added plus, of leaving a weed-free thick, dense new ley which is clean (worm-free), **in 9 to 10 weeks**

Arable Silage is not a Wholecrop!

Wholecrop is usually harvested in **15 to 16 weeks** when the grain is at milky stage. This is not recommended for grass reseed because the **cereal cover continues for too long**.

Even with perfect weather conditions and a standing wholecrop, a good percentage of the grass seed sown will be lost, due to competition and lack of light.

Farmers will say “**This is ok, the ley will thicken-up**” but in reality although the remaining grass will do its best to cover the ground, spaces will be left for **weed grasses / seedling docks** to establish and you are soon **back to square one**.

Have a look at the old-new Welsh way of reseeding – it works!