



70% Organic DUET Arable Silage

Organic Spring Barley

Spring Forage Pea

Sown @ 50 Kilo / Acre

70% Organic TRIUMPH Arable Silage

Organic Spring Oats

Spring Forage Pea

Sown @ 50 Kilo / Acre

Organic 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 a substantial financial and forage loss, over many years.

Accepting the diverse variations in organic farming businesses in the U.K. there is one farm activity which is almost universally constant – **reseeding a new ley.**

How and when we reseed is important – we have the same seed costs to establish a ***bad*** reseeded ley as a ***good*** reseeded ley.

Problems with reseeds, late Summer to late Autumn:

- Poor establishment of clovers on many organic farms
- Previous cereal regrowth competing with grass
- Weed growth – especially chickweed on wet, high-fertility soils
- Low soil fertility for reseeding, after a long run of combinable crops

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

An old well-tried grass establishment method is becoming increasingly popular for **Spring** reseeding and is a method recommended by Western Seeds.

- When reseeding directly from grass to grass a **brassica break** is recommended **before** reseeding with grass seed
- Plough and sow forage rape or stubble turnips in late Summer / early Autumn (mid-July to mid-August: see page 18), and feed stock Autumn-Winter
- Alternatively, if forage is required in early Spring, **HUMBOLT** grazing rye can be sown (see page 20) in August-September, for grazing late February onwards

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 13)

- When Autumn-sown forage crops have been utilised in Spring, it is time to consider the best grass seed mixture to sow under a **cover crop**.

Western Seeds` **Arable Silage Mixtures** are a mixture of **cereal** and **forage peas** and are **unique** in the U.K., not to be confused with **Wholecrop** – a different product, see below.

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 kilos per acre
- Broadcast new grass ley **the same day (important)**, and roll field

- Harvest Arable Silage with grass included in **9 to 10 Weeks Maximum**
- Yield: 8 X 600 kilo (approx.) big bales per acre

Benefits;

- **By cutting in 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**, leaving a weed-free, thick, dense new ley which is clean (worm-free), **in 9 to 10 weeks**
- Clover, especially red clover will usually establish better in the **Spring**, compared to an Autumn sowing

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 it will give many years of profit.

Arable Silage is not a Wholecrop! This is a common misunderstanding.

Wholecrop is usually harvested in **15 to 16 weeks** when the grain is at milky stage. This is **not recommended for reseeding** because the cereal cover is on seedling grass, 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 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**

If you want to achieve a first-class Spring reseed every time utilise a Western Seeds` Arable Silage mixture.