

Cover crop funding – *Approved species list for Winter 2020/21*

Species / Mix*	Estimate of N capture in above ground material (kgN/ha)	Latest establishment date**	Suitable for use after a cereal?	Suitable for use after maize?	Minimum seed rate (kg/ha)	Approx seed cost (£/kg)***	Approx seed cost (£/ha)	Comments
<i>Oil radish</i>	50-100	Mid-September	Y	N – unless very early maize harvest	August drilling: 10 Sept drilling: 15	£2.00-3.00	£30-45	The most effective species at capturing N and the most versatile of all cover crops. Some varieties are sold as club-root resistant so can be used in the same rotation as oilseed rape. The first-choice brassica.
<i>Mustard (plus an optional companion species such as a cereal or phacelia)</i>	40-70	Mid-September	Y	N	14	£1.70-2.50	£24-35	Not clubroot resistant so beware in an OSR rotation. Not usually frost hardy so a frost-hardy companion species is recommended to ensure ground-cover later in the winter.
<i>Turnip rape</i>	40-70	Late September	Y	Possibly, if maize is harvested early	10	£2.20-3.00	£22-30	Not clubroot resistant so beware in an OSR rotation. Possible to establish in late September to early October, although earlier establishment is better.
<i>Barley</i>	20-50	Early October	Y	Y	100	£0.40-0.60	£40-60	A useful addition to mixes.
<i>Oats</i>	20-50	Early October	Y	Y	125	£0.40-0.60	£50-75	A useful addition to mixes.
<i>Forage rye</i>	30-60	Early October	Y	Y	75	£0.60-1.00	£45-75	Good partner for one of the brassicas on this list. Can be grazed before maize is drilled.
<i>Italian ryegrass</i>	30-60	Early October	Y	Y	35	£1.50-2.50	£60-100	Good option if cover crop follows a maize crop, and a silage cut may be taken in May.
<i>Westerwolds</i>	30-60	Early October	Y	Y	35	£1.50-2.50	£60-100	Good option if cover crop follows a maize crop, and a silage cut may be taken in May.
<i>One of the above species should be the dominant species in a mix and can be the sole species if required. Other species of the grower's choice can make up to 25% of the mix</i>	As brassicas generally capture the most nitrogen it is preferable to use at least one of the brassicas on this list in the cover crop mix selected. If a non-brassica is needed due to oilseed rape being grown in the rotation, then oats and phacelia are good alternatives.							

Please refer to the notes on the next page

***No legumes** such as vetches, pulses or clovers are included on this list as although they are good fertility builders, they can lead to increased nitrate leaching when incorporated into the soil. If you would like to include a small percentage of a legume in a cover crop mix then please discuss this with your scheme advisor.

****This refers to the latest date** that it is worth sowing a cover crop. Many of the species on this list will emerge after this date but are unlikely to grow enough before the winter that they will capture enough nitrogen to make them worthwhile. This date is the latest date, not the optimum date for establishing each species. The optimum date for all of them is as soon after harvest of the previous crop as possible, i.e. August if following a cereal and mid to late September if following maize.

*****Volume discounts** will usually apply to seed costs with the lowest prices being for orders of 0.5 - 1 tonne or more.

Home saving of seed: Growers are encouraged to purchase certified seed and not to use home-saved seed. Not all species can be home-saved within the rules. If home-saved seed is used it is the grower's responsibility to ensure that any Farm Saved Seed Payment due is made to BSPB. With regard to cover crops, BSPB states that: *'Regardless of whether a crop is taken to harvest, the seeds regulations and farm-saved seed rules apply. You must use either certified seed purchased from a licensed seed merchant or farm-saved seed produced on your own holding. In the case of farm-saved seed, if you are using an eligible variety the FSS payment will be due on sowing regardless of whether the crop is taken to harvest'* [source: <http://www.fairplay.org.uk/farm-saved-seed-faqs.html>]. More information is available at the BSPB website: <http://www.bspb.co.uk/farmsavedseed/index.php> or if there are any doubts about the rules please contact BSPB's farm-saved seed team on 01353 653 209.