

Ask for  
**Germinal**

germinal.ie

# Climate Smart Performance

Trust Germinal for expert advice and  
climate smart strategies for grassland  
management

Product catalogue  
**2024**





# Contents

Introduction	1
Aber High Sugar Grass (HSG) Range	2
Cutting and Grazing	4-11
Overseeding	12
Aber HSG for Anaerobic Digestion	13
Reseeding Advice	14
Clovers	16
Red Clover	17
White Clover	19
Summerhill	21
Marathon	22
Sheepmount	23
Horse Paddock	24
Alternative Forage Crops	26
Tonic Plantain	27
Puna II Chicory	28
Forage Brassicas	29-33
Irish Native Wildflower Mixtures	34-35

# Change for the better

As we approach another season, we have experienced ongoing impacts of changing weather patterns and continued pressure to improve practices and reduce our carbon footprint.

Adapting to change is not new for farmers as they are natural adopters of on-farm methods to get the results they need. For Germinal, agricultural change is about adaptation and mitigation, both critical in the face of climate-related risks. There are many challenges to tackle – reducing inputs such as fertiliser application to restrict greenhouse gas emissions, maximising animal performance and food production, while facing a changing climate.

Focusing on forage solutions, Germinal continues to offer the highest performing grass varieties for meat and milk production with Aber HSG also possessing the climate smart advantage of reducing harmful emissions. The range will take an evolutionary step forward with AberSevern. A late diploid perennial ryegrass, AberSevern has the highest grazing yield and quality of any grass on the 2023/24 BSPB Recommended Grass and Clover Lists (RGCL) and will be exclusively available in Germinal mixtures from 2025.

Being climate smart also means providing environmental solutions. With DeepRoot, we are launching a new range of grasses that are both high yielding and more drought-tolerant. Available from 2025, AberRoot is our first grass in the DeepRoot range, and is the first and only festulolium included in the RGCL.

This year's catalogue also contains solutions to other key environmental issues like nutrient management and soil fertility with clovers and multi-species mixtures to support your sustainable food production. Farmers are resilient and so, farming systems must be also. The scientific and applied research we do at Germinal Horizon directly targets climate change problems and we're continually looking at grasses, clovers and other multi-species forage solutions.

Choose performance plus environment.

We are excited to introduce the next generation of Aber High Sugar Grasses (HSG) and support all farmers on their own commitment and journey towards positive progress.

Here's to a productive year ahead.

**David Little**

Agricultural Product Manager  
Germinal Ireland



# Aber High Sugar Grass (HSG)

Agriculture connects directly to the economy, society and biodiversity making it an important frontier for innovation. Food production and profitability continues to raise complex challenges for farmers whilst lowering emissions from livestock remains a priority for responsible agriculture.

At Germinal Horizon, our research strategy is to ensure innovations in plant science allow pasture-based livestock systems to thrive even as environmental demands increase. This translates directly to helping farmers adapt to the pressures of climate change, better manage valuable resources and be more sustainable producers.

Germinal's Aber HSG is a climate smart leader with a superior energy-protein balance. These grass mixtures deliver highly productive swards that have the capability of driving high levels of output and reducing the production and release of ammonia and nitrous oxide by adding energy to the rumen to enable greater protein capture.

Aber HSG varieties offer highly efficient forage production plus environmental gain. For 2024, we are introducing several new Aber HSG varieties which will be exclusively available in Germinal mixtures.



<b>General purpose</b>	Aber HSG 1 Milk and Meat Production Aber HSG 4 Dairy System
<b>Grazing</b>	Aber HSG 3 Long-Term Grazing AberXtend HSG Extended Grazing Aber HSG Multi-Species
<b>Cutting</b>	Aber HSG 2 Early Cut Aber Red 5 HSG Quality Silage
<b>Overseeding</b>	Aber HSG Short-Term Overseeding Aber HSG Long-Term Overseeding
<b>Anaerobic digestion</b>	Aber HSG for AD Short-Term Aber HSG for AD Medium-Term Aber HSG for AD Long-Term

## James Henderson

Sustainability is driving profitability for Co. Down beef and sheep farmer James Henderson, a Grassland Manager of the Year finalist at the 2023 Farmers Weekly Awards.

"Ten years ago, I would have described this farm as one where we kept beef and sheep. Today, I would say this is a grassland farm where beef and sheep keep us.

"Grassland management is the crux of our farm business. Having the top-performing Aber High Sugar Grasses in our bespoke mixtures is essential for both maximising grass production and stock performance.

"We are currently using Germinal's red clover mixture and have found it to be an excellent product. It's very much part of our plans going forward as we seek to reduce our nitrogen usage and increase our homegrown protein."

### Farm details

- Seafields Farm, Kilkeel, Co. Down
- 150 acres (60 hectares) farmed
- Finishing 90 dairy-beef heifers annually
- 1,444kg/ha cattle liveweight produced
- Lambing 250 Rouge x Texel ewes and 50 ewe lamb replacements put to Primera tupes
- 430kg/ha sheep carcase weight

## LONG-TERM

# Aber HSG 1

## Milk and Meat Production



Available  
without  
white clover



Available  
with plantain



Available  
with chicory

Aber HSG 1 is an all-round mixture offering sustainable, high-performance grazing for dairy, beef and sheep systems.

### Key benefits

- High digestibility to drive dry matter (DM) intakes
- Outstanding grazing yield and grazing D-value
- 100% high-ranking Aber HSG perennial ryegrasses
- Correct balance of diploid and tetraploid varieties
- Lower ammonia and methane excretion reducing environmental impact

Fig 01.

### Aber HSG 1 Milk and Meat Production:

T = Tetraploid

Kg / acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
3.00	AberZeus	Perennial Ryegrass	25 May
3.00	AberWolf	Perennial Ryegrass	26 May
3.00	AberGreen	Perennial Ryegrass	28 May
4.00	AberGain	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	03 Jun
1.00	AberPasture	White Clover Blend	
<b>14.00</b>			

Heading date average for Aber HSG 1 Milk and Meat Production is 29<sup>th</sup> May for Northern Ireland.

When cutting for silage, aim to cut 5-10 days before average heading date for optimum quality.

Optimum spread of heading dates within mixtures for grazing and cutting results in better performance of the leys.

Fig 02.

### Aber HSG 1 Milk and Meat Production:

Spread of heading dates





MEDIUM-TERM

# Aber HSG 2

## Early Cut



With Aber HSG 2 Early Cut, you get a mixture that produces high-quality, high-yielding silage early in the season while offering sustainability benefits.

### Key benefits

- 100% high-ranking Aber HSG varieties
- Compatible heading dates
- High metabolisable energy (ME) yield
- Aber HSG enhance fermentation, particularly when red clover is included

Fig 03.

### Aber HSG 2 Early Cut:

T = Tetraploid

Kg / acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
5.00	AberEcho	Hybrid Ryegrass (T)	14 May
5.00	AberEve	Hybrid Ryegrass (T)	20 May
5.00	AberWolf	Perennial Ryegrass	26 May
15.00			

Heading date average for Aber HSG 2 Early Cut is 20<sup>th</sup> May for Northern Ireland.  
When cutting for silage, aim to cut 5-10 days before average heading date for optimum quality.  
Optimum spread of heading dates within mixtures for grazing and cutting results in better performance of the leys.

Fig 04.

### Aber HSG 2 Early Cut:

Spread of heading dates





## LONG-TERM

## Aber HSG 3

### Long-Term Grazing



Available  
without  
white clover



Available  
with plantain



Available  
with chicory



Available  
with timothy

Aber HSG 3 is a high-performance, sustainable grazing ley for cattle and sheep in rotational and set-stocking systems.

#### Key benefits

- Combines an excellent grazing yield and D-value
- Outstanding autumn production
- Very persistent sward with good 'bottom'
- High digestibility to drive dry matter intakes
- Persists for up to 10 years
- Lower ammonia and methane excretion reducing environmental impact

Fig 05.

#### Aber HSG 3 Long-Term Grazing:

Kg / acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
2.00	AberZeus	Perennial Ryegrass	25 May
3.00	AberWolf	Perennial Ryegrass	26 May
3.00	AberGreen	Perennial Ryegrass	28 May
2.00	AberBann	Perennial Ryegrass	07 Jun
3.00	AberChoice	Perennial Ryegrass	08 Jun
1.00	AberPasture	White Clover Blend	
<b>14.00</b>			



## Julian Bowers

Moving from intensive beef production to an extensive low-input system embracing multi-species has seen Julian Bowers transform his farm and thinking.

"We moved from milking dairy cows to raising dairy bull calves, but when feed prices started escalating, we knew it wasn't sustainable.

"When I looked at how I could improve my soils to support our plans to finish Angus cross cattle outside, diversity and the use of herbal leys came into it more and more.

"I established the multi-species in 2021 and started grazing it in May 2022. We direct-drilled into cereal stubble and it took brilliantly. Having always had clean pasture and grown clovers successfully, we have good plant numbers within the sward.

"We're trying to achieve great daily liveweight gains using less bought-in feed while looking after the soils with less reliance on fertilisers and chemicals.

"I think grazing a high-end quality animal outside on a multi-species ley without fertiliser is the future."

### Farm details

- Top House Farm, Cockshutt, Shropshire
- 89ha including 33ha GS4 herbal leys
- 200 Angus/Longhorn cross bull calves
- Min till/no till approach

## LONG-TERM

## Aber HSG

### Multi-Species Swards



Available  
without  
red clover



Available  
without  
white clover

This climate smart mixture is ideal for low-input systems seeking high daily liveweight gain and improvements in soil health. Produces a dense sward of Aber HSG varieties, timothy, herbs and legumes.

#### Key benefits

- Superior sward performance through complementary plant species
- Higher nutrient levels driving improved animal performance
- Lower animal emissions
- Improved soil structure and fertility
- Increased drought tolerance
- Poaching resistance
- Reduced reliance on nitrogen fertilisers

Fig 06.

#### Aber HSG Multi-Species Grazing:

T = Tetraploid

Kg / acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
3.00	AberGain	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	03 Jun
3.00	AberBann	Perennial Ryegrass	07 Jun
3.00	AberChoice	Perennial Ryegrass	08 Jun
1.00	Comer	Timothy	
0.75	Tonic	Plantain	
0.50	Puna II	Chicory	
1.00	AberPasture	White Clover Blend	
0.50	AberClaret	Red Clover	
1.00	Garant	Red Clover	
13.75			





LONG-TERM

Aber HSG 4  
Dairy System



Delivers a first cut in May, an optional second cut 5-6 weeks later, and rotational grazing for the rest of the year.

Key benefits

- Long-lasting ley with outstanding quality
- Top yields of high ME silage at first cut
- 100% Aber HSG perennial ryegrasses
- Balance of diploid and tetraploid varieties
- High digestibility to drive dry matter intakes
- Lower ammonia and methane excretion reducing environmental impact

Fig 07.

Aber HSG 4  
Dairy System:

T = Tetraploid

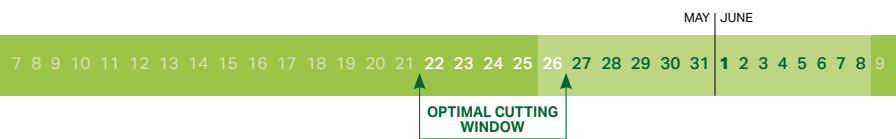
Kg / acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
3.00	AberWolf	Perennial Ryegrass	26 May
3.00	AberGreen	Perennial Ryegrass	28 May
4.00	AberGain	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	03 Jun
3.00	AberChoice	Perennial Ryegrass	08 Jun
1.00	AberDai	White Clover	
14.00			

Heading date average for Aber HSG 4 Dairy System is 1<sup>st</sup> June for Northern Ireland.  
When cutting for silage, aim to cut 5-10 days before average heading date for optimum quality.  
Optimum spread of heading dates within mixtures for grazing and cutting results in better performance of the leys.

Fig 08.

Aber HSG 4  
Dairy System:

Spread of heading dates





## MEDIUM-TERM

# Aber Red 5 HSG

## Quality Silage

Unlock climate smart performance with a red clover silage mixture that increases homegrown protein production while reducing your need for applied nitrogen.

### Key benefits

- Low-input, highly productive silage mixture
- First cut in mid-late May, then at 5-6 week intervals after
- Improved protein content of silage
- Outstanding grazing yield and D-value
- Sustainable performance for 4-5 years
- Lower ammonia and methane excretion
- Excellent aftermath grazing for finishing lambs

Fig 09.

### Aber Red 5 HSG Quality Silage:

T = Tetraploid

Kg / acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
3.00	AberZeus	Perennial Ryegrass	25 May
2.00	AberWolf	Perennial Ryegrass	26 May
4.00	AberGain	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	03 Jun
1.00	AberClaret	Red Clover	
2.00	Rozeta	Red Clover	
12.00			

When cutting red clover for optimum quality silage, aim to cut when 25% of clover flowers show.  
Optimum spread of heading dates within mixtures for grazing and cutting results in better performance of the leys.



MEDIUM / LONG-TERM

# AberXtend HSG

## Extended Grazing

Grows a high-performance sward for dairy, beef and sheep, offering extended grazing with exceptional growth during the shoulders of the season.

### Key benefits

- High-quality grazing from early spring to autumn
- Exceptional grazing and metabolisable energy (ME) yield
- High digestibility to drive dry matter intakes
- 100% Aber HSG grasses with Germinal white clovers
- Lower ammonia and methane excretion reducing environmental impact

Fig 10.

**AberXtend HSG**  
**Extended Grazing:**

T = Tetraploid

Kg / acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
4.00	AberZeus	Perennial Ryegrass	25 May
5.00	AberGreen	Perennial Ryegrass	28 May
4.00	AberGain	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	03 Jun
1.00	AberPasture	White Clover Blend	
14.00			





## Aber HSG

### Overseeding

Rejuvenate underperforming pastures with minimal time out of production. Short-term and long-term overseeding mixtures can establish quickly to produce better forage in challenging conditions.

Fig 11.

#### Aber HSG Long-Term Overseeding:

T = Tetraploid

### Aber HSG Long-Term Overseeding

Kg / acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
3.00	AberClyde	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	23 May
3.00	AberGain	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	03 Jun
4.00	AberBite	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	04 Jun
<b>10.00</b>			

#### Key benefits

- 100% tetraploids for rapid establishment
- Perennial ryegrasses for persistency
- High ranking Aber HSG varieties

Fig 12.

#### Aber HSG Short-Term Overseeding:

T = Tetraploid

### Aber HSG Short-Term Overseeding

Kg / acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
5.00	AberEcho	Hybrid Ryegrass (T)	14 May
5.00	AberNiche	Festulolium	22 May
<b>10.00</b>			

#### Key benefits

- Rapid establishment
- High yielding under cutting
- New festulolium for increased rooting



# Aber HSG

## Anaerobic Digestion

Grass provides a cost-effective, environmentally sustainable feedstock for anaerobic digesters.

### Key benefits

- Aber HSG varieties offer higher water-soluble carbohydrates content
- These AD mixtures generate a higher yield and rate of biogas production

Fig 13.

**AD Short-Term:**

T = Tetraploid

Kg / acre	Variety	Type
5.00	AberEcho	Hybrid Ryegrass (T)
4.00	AberClyde	Perennial Ryegrass (T)
5.00	AberNiche	Festulolium
14.00		

Fig 14.

**AD Medium-Term:**

T = Tetraploid

Kg / acre	Variety	Type
6.00	AberEcho	Hybrid Ryegrass (T)
8.00	AberWolf	Perennial Ryegrass
14.00		

Fig 15.

**AD Long-Term:**

T = Tetraploid

Kg / acre	Variety	Type
5.00	AberWolf	Perennial Ryegrass
4.00	AberGreen	Perennial Ryegrass
5.00	AberBite	Perennial Ryegrass (T)
14.00		



## Reseeding advice

The method used to reseed usually makes little difference to yield in the first full year. It is more important the reseed is done properly and managed well.

### Liming

Liming is important to help counteract any acidity resulting from the old sward decaying. Even if a field was limed within two years, applying 1-2 tonnes of lime at sowing helps the new sward establish well.

Ground preparation is critical, aiming to produce a fine, firm and level seedbed – one you can ride a bike across! If direct drilling, check for rain before drilling as it's less successful in dry conditions.

### Roll

Post-sowing rolling is essential to help compress the soil and keep more moisture in the seedbed. It also helps seed-to-soil contact and the best chance of successful germination.

### Pests

Pest attacks are more prevalent with an autumn reseed. The following all help reduce the risk of an attack: killing off an old sward effectively and removing dead material; allowing sufficient time between spraying and cultivation; preparing a good seedbed in the best reseeding conditions; post-sowing rolling. Common pests include:

- **Frit-fly** – can result in patchy, poorly-established reseeds. Frit-fly larvae burrow into the base of newly-emerging grasses, cutting off the plant at the growing point. Autumn reseeds and min-till are at greatest risk.
- **Leatherjacket** – found in bare patches. Leatherjackets are the larvae of the crane fly (Daddy-long-legs). They cut off the plant just below the surface, destroying the seedling. Large crow populations can indicate a leatherjacket problem.
- **Slugs** – indicated by shredded leaves, slugs are most prevalent in wet weather or damp sections of a field, particularly areas with high surface trash or inadequate rolling. Direct-drilled reseeds are at greatest risk as slits in the ground provide shelter for slugs. Use pellets if direct drilling or if a problem is identified. Risk is reduced by creating a fine, firm seedbed with adequate rolling.

### Weed control

Post-emergence weed spray provides the best opportunity for weed control in a new sward. Weeds are easier and cheaper to control and most susceptible to herbicides when they are seedlings. Apply a spray targeting the weed types present 5-6 weeks after sowing. If clover is in the sward, take care to use a clover-safe spray at the three-leaf stage.





# Clover in the climate fight

Clovers are members of the legume family and have stand out advantages as a multitasking forage option with environmental and economic benefits. Clovers in pasture can mitigate the negative effects of climate change by lowering reliance on the application of chemical fertiliser. They are also a great source of homegrown traceable protein.

With a heritage well beyond Germinal's almost 200 years, clover is not a new tool to agronomy, but at Germinal Horizon we have invested in research to innovate it as a modern technology tool. Germinal DoubleRoot is a world first hybrid white clover with rhizomes and stolons, offering greater resilience to different climatic factors. This adaptive quality makes it a great choice in soils affected by water deficit or cold climate stress.

Dr Jo Matthews, Technical Trials Manager at Germinal Horizon Wiltshire, comments, "The most underutilised and undervalued crop on farms is clover. This climate-friendly plant has the power to reduce your reliance on mineral fertiliser, to boost your homegrown protein supply and fundamentally reduce your outgoings and maximise your livestock production. It's a very simple thing to adopt and has huge potential from a sustainability perspective."

You will find links below to farmer profiles and technical information on using our exclusive red and white clover mixtures, both driving performance of livestock and supporting nutrient efficient protein production.



Scan or click [here](#) to view our online articles



Scan or click [here](#) to view our online Knowledge Hub



## Red Clover

Red clover is a high-quality, cost-effective source of homegrown protein able to be grazed or cut and with the ability to fix nitrogen, reducing the need for both bought-in feed and N fertiliser.

When cut, it typically has a dry matter (DM) percentage, metabolisable energy (ME) content and crude protein level above that of grass silage. With a protein content of 16-20% and containing an enzyme reducing protein breakdown in the clamp, it is an attractive option for feeding high-performing livestock.

Red clover also performs well in severe weather as its long taproot increases its resilience to cold and drought. In the dry summer of 2022, red clover was still producing 15 tonnes DM/ha in many areas. The long taproot also benefits soil structure and fertility.

One of its shortcomings has been its relatively short persistence in the sward but the new generation Germinal red clovers, including AberClaret, have overcome this problem.

Bred at Germinal Horizon in Aberystwyth, AberClaret lasts at least four years in a cutting sward and is significantly more tolerant of grazing. This longer productive life makes it more compatible with medium to long-term leys.



Scan or click [here](#)  
to view our full  
Red Clover Guide





## Colin Doherty

Co. Limerick dairy farmer Colin Doherty is aiming to reduce his nitrogen use and be self-sufficient in feed by using red clover silage.

"We've used Germinal varieties ever since I switched to AberGain. It was such a standout success I've continued to use Germinal seeds, including clover. We chose red clover for its ability to fix nitrogen so we could reduce our use of nitrogen fertiliser but also because we're trying to grow all our own high-quality feed.

"We aim for our first cut of red clover in May, with the last in mid-October and a total of 15 tonnes DM/ha. The cows really like it, helping us achieve the high intakes we're after.

"And as we hoped, we've seen a massive reduction in our use of nitrogen fertiliser, saving us around €7,500 across 17 hectares.

"Get the quality right and red clover is an ideal feed for cows. I wouldn't go back now – I see red clover as part of our system for a long time to come."

### Farm details

- Adare, Co. Limerick
- 280 acre grass-based system; 260-270 days at grass
- 220 Friesian X Jersey cows
- 430kg milk solids





# White Clover

White clover increases the nutrient intake of livestock, particularly during the summer when grass productivity may be slowing down.

A high-quality source of protein, it supports constituent levels in dairy cows and drives performance in sheep and cattle.

Its strong, creeping stem makes white clover tolerant of grazing and enables the plant to store energy and protein over winter and into spring. It is also able to fix nitrogen, reducing the need for N fertiliser applications.

The Germinal white clover blends are leading the way in producing higher yields and lasting longer. Newer varieties are achieving optimum targets of a 30-35% contribution to total sward dry matter under a range of management systems, with five Germinal varieties found on the latest recommended grass and clover list.

Aber HSG mixtures are offered with clover as standard.

## Key benefits

- Increased output of milk and meat from forage
- Improved soil structure and grazing quality
- Balanced grass/clover sward
- Suitable for a wide range of soil types and management systems
- Reduces reliance on artificial nitrogen

Fig 20.

**AberPasture:**  
Cattle set stocking and rotational sheep grazing

%	Variety
50	AberDai (medium leaf)
25	AberAce (small leaf)
25	AberHerald (medium leaf)

Fig 21.

**AberSheep:**  
Continuous or rotational grazing, upland and lowland

%	Variety
25	AberDai (medium leaf)
50	AberAce (small leaf)
25	AberLasting (small leaf)





# Summerhill

Quality cutting and grazing mixture

Summerhill is for producers aiming for one or two high quality silage cuts followed by the best possible aftermath grazing. First cut will be late May, with the option of a second cut approximately 4-6 weeks later, or before rotational grazing.

## Key benefits

- Long-lasting ley with outstanding quality
- Good yield credentials for grazing and cutting
- High digestibility and dry matter intakes
- Careful balance of intermediate and late, diploid and tetraploid varieties
- Lower ammonia and methane excretion reducing environmental impact

Fig 16.

**Summerhill:**

T = Tetraploid

Kg / acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
2.00	AberClyde	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	23 May
4.00	AberMagic	Perennial Ryegrass	27 May
2.00	AberBite	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	04 Jun
2.00	AberBann	Perennial Ryegrass	07 Jun
3.00	AberLee	Perennial Ryegrass	07 Jun
1.00	AberPasture	White Clover Blend	
14.00			

Heading date average for Summerhill is 1<sup>st</sup> June for Northern Ireland.  
When cutting for silage, aim to cut 5-10 days before average heading date for optimum quality.





## Marathon

Grass mixture ideally suited to general purpose use

Marathon has similar qualities to Summerhill, producing one or two high quality silage cuts before offering excellent aftermath grazing. The addition of timothy to this high-quality mix also makes it suitable for heavier ground.

### Key benefits

- Suitable for all areas
- Excellent persistence and density
- Lower ammonia and methane excretion reducing environmental impact
- Contains a balance of intermediate and late, diploid and tetraploid varieties

Fig 17.

#### Marathon:

T = Tetraploid

Kg / acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
3.00	AberGreen	Perennial Ryegrass	28 May
2.00	AberAvon	Perennial Ryegrass	01 Jun
2.00	AberBite	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	04 Jun
2.00	AberPlentiful	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	06 Jun
3.00	AberLee	Perennial Ryegrass	07 Jun
1.00	Comer	Timothy	
1.00	AberPasture	White Clover Blend	
<b>14.00</b>			

Heading date average is 3<sup>rd</sup> June for Northern Ireland.

When cutting for silage, aim to cut 5-10 days before average heading date for optimum quality.







# Sheepmount

Specialist sheep mixture

Key benefits

- Intensive sheep grazing
- High carrying capacity
- Palatable forage
- Specialist white clover blend for sheep grazing
- Dense sward

Fig 18.

Sheepmount:

T = Tetraploid

Kg/acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
2.00	AberGreen	Perennial Ryegrass	28 May
2.00	AberAvon	Perennial Ryegrass	01 Jun
2.00	AberPlentiful	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	06 Jun
4.00	AberLee	Perennial Ryegrass	07 Jun
1.00	Comer	Timothy	
2.00	Maxima	Creeping Red Fescue	
1.00	AberSheep	White Clover Blend	
14.00			

Heading date average for Sheepmount is 4<sup>th</sup> June for Northern Ireland.  
When cutting for silage, aim to cut 5-10 days before average heading date for optimum quality.







## Horse Paddock

Specialist horse and pony mixture

### Key benefits

- Creeping grasses to minimise poaching
- Rapid establishment
- Dense and persistent sward
- Good grazing and hay yields
- Very palatable

Fig 19.

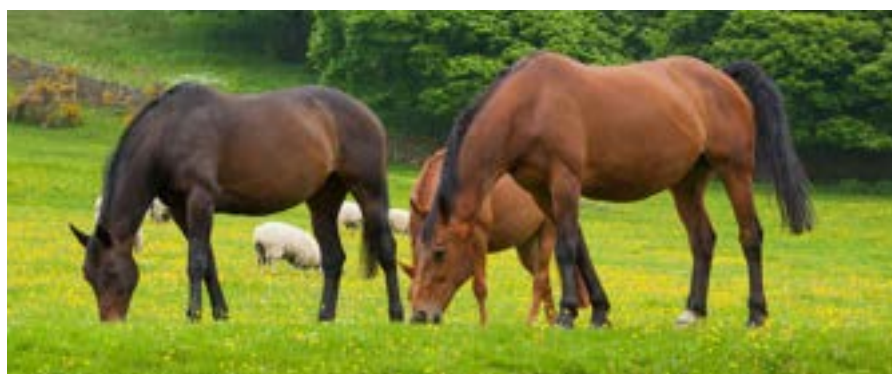
#### Horse Paddock:

T = Tetraploid

Kg/acre	Variety	Type	Heading Date
5.50	Kerry	Perennial Ryegrass	02 Jun
2.00	Briant	Perennial Ryegrass (T)	03 Jun
4.00	AberLee	Perennial Ryegrass	07 Jun
2.00	Maxima	Perennial Ryegrass	
1.00	Comer	Timothy	
0.50	Senu	Meadow Fescue	
<b>15.00</b>			

Heading date average for Horse Paddock is 4<sup>th</sup> Jun for Northern Ireland.

When cutting for silage, aim to cut 5-10 days before average heading date for optimum quality.









## Alternative forage crops

Growing alternative forage crops is all about cost efficiency, helping to cut bought-in feed costs and fill feeding gaps. They complement efforts to improve grassland and produce high-quality grazing and grass silage, as a companion, break or following crop.

Herbs such as chicory and plantain can be used in a mixed grazing sward to provide a high-quality feed rich in valuable minerals while protein-rich lucerne offers an alternative cutting crop.

The wide variety of available brassicas ranges from leafy kales and forage rapes to root crops, including stubble turnips and swedes. They are a versatile feeding solution to fill summer grazing gaps, extend autumn grazing, or support outwintering systems taking the pressure off conserved forage stocks.

When used between grass leys, brassicas are an effective break crop, disrupting the life cycle of pests able to damage newly established leys.



## Tonic

### Plantain

Tonic plantain is an ideal forage herb in mixed species swards with Aber High Sugar Grasses and Germinal white and red clovers to boost growth and liveweight gain.

It is a protein and mineral-rich forage well suited to intensive or rotational grazing systems for dairy and beef cattle, sheep and finishing lambs. Its high protein and mineral content make it a nutritious addition to a mixed sward alongside Aber High Sugar Grasses and clovers.

Tonic plantain offers good spring and autumn growth, allowing a longer productive season, and shows rapid regrowth post-grazing.

### Key benefits

- More milk or meat production
- Increased daily liveweight gain
- Heavier weights at weaning
- High dry matter (DM) production from early spring to late autumn
- Reduces the effects of internal parasites
- High in minerals, especially copper and selenium
- High digestibility to drive intakes and growth







## Puna II

### Perennial Chicory

Puna II is a forage crop for use as a pure stand or part of a mixed sward in medium to long-term rotational grazing.

Puna II perennial chicory is the superior choice of chicory when seeking a broad-leaved forage crop as part of a mixed sward with grass and clover or grown alone in a pure stand. It can boost growth rates and productivity to finish stock earlier.

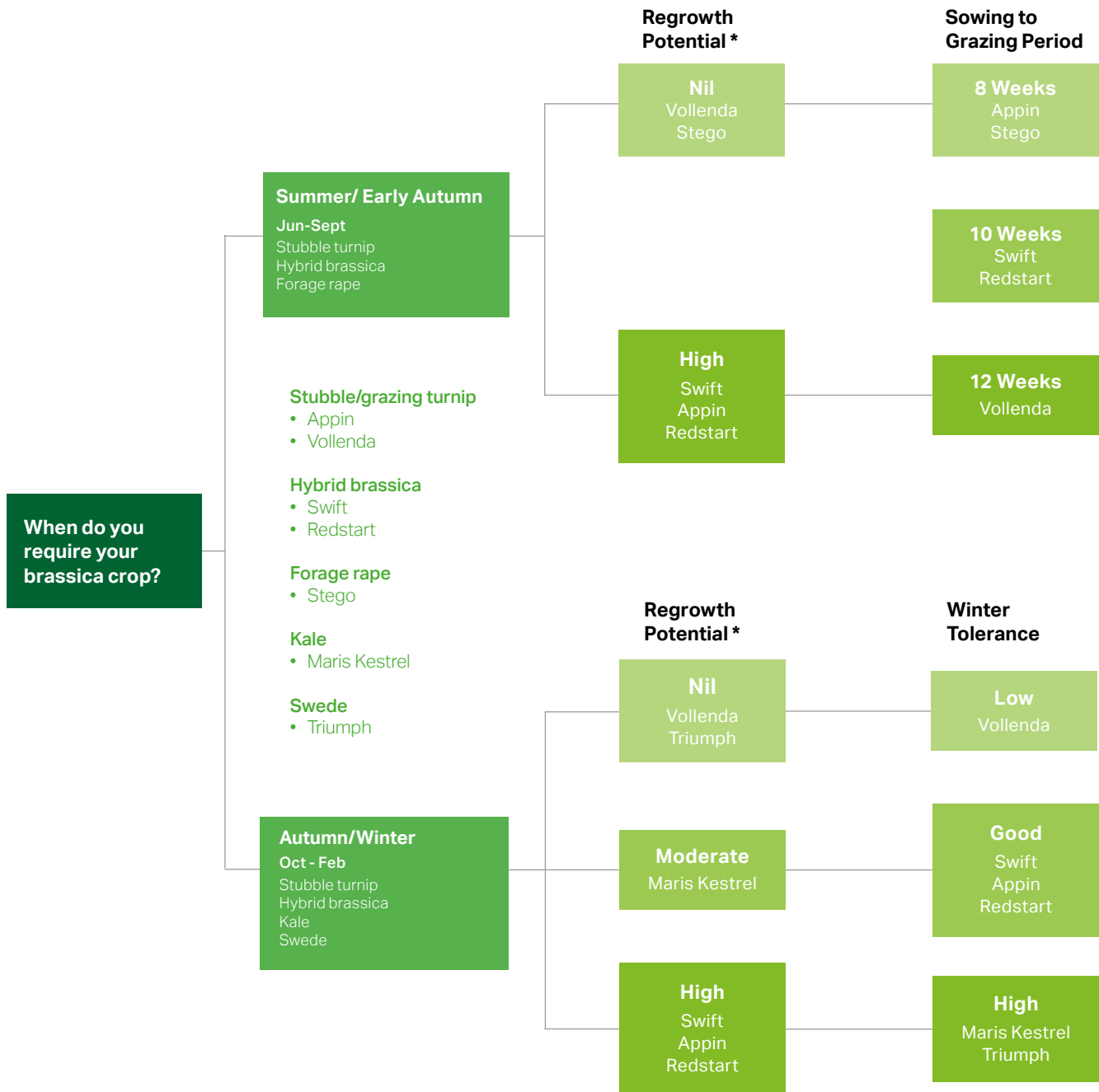
This perennial variety, bred in New Zealand, gives greater persistency lasting 2-5 years, longer than the short-lived common chicory.

### Key benefits

- Outstanding animal performance (e.g. lamb growth rates of 300-400g/day)
- Yields up to 15tDM/ha in a season; crude protein up to 25%; D-value 70-80
- High mineral content, including zinc, potassium and copper
- Good tolerance to drought, acid soils and major pests
- Rapid regrowth after grazing
- Reduces the effect of internal parasites
- Provides high quality feed through the summer
- Does not cause bloating



# Planning your brassica requirements



\*Rate and extent of regrowth depends on weather conditions.

## Maris Kestrel

### Kale

#### Maris Kestrel

Kale is a high-quality, cost-effective winter feed for all classes of stock.

It can also help overcome grass shortages towards the end of summer. This high-yielding, high leaf-to-stem ratio variety is highly digestible so is suitable for grazing.

#### Key benefits

- High palatability driving intakes
- Good cold weather and frost tolerance
- Stems resistant to lodging
- Ideal for outwintering

#### Variety

**Maris Kestrel** Sow at 2-3kg/acre from May to the end of June. Feed from July to the following February.

## Swift

## Redstart

### Hybrid brassicas

#### Swift and Redstart

If you're looking for a flexible, cost-effective forage crop, hybrid brassicas are a new interspecies of kale and rape, ideal for high energy grazing of cattle and sheep.

The crop grows quickly and vigorously, offering grazing options from July to around the end of January depending on sowing date.

#### Key benefits

- High energy and protein
- Suitable for cattle and sheep
- Good cold weather and frost tolerance
- Good late season yields

#### Variety

**Swift** Sow at 2-3kg/acre from May to the end of August. Feed from July to the following January.

**Redstart** Sow at 2-3kg/acre from May to the end of August. Feed from July to the following January.



## John Hannon

John Hannon grows Redstart to graze his Suffolk cross flock of 120 breeding ewes and 40 replacements, having begun using it seven years ago to reduce his bought-in feed costs.

"The lambs absolutely love the Redstart and their fast growth shows it. Since introducing it, our lambs finish with an extra 1kg of weight. I think the meat quality has improved too.

"Anecdotally, I've also found since using Redstart the sheep don't have any worms – I never have to dose them. They don't seem to pick any diseases up when out grazing now, and the only thing I've really changed is the Redstart.

"I find Redstart useful as a break crop and it seems to suit our sandy soils. It's easy to sow and after applying a bit of fertiliser two weeks in it takes off. It's a low cost reseed for me, gaining two or three grazes out of it with no weed problems."

### Farm details

- Kiltoom Farm, Keadagh, Co. Roscommon
- 120 breeding ewes, 40 replacements
- Suffolk/Texel crosses
- All lamb sold to Irish Country Meats





## Grazing turnip

Appin

Grazing turnip offers a flexible feeding option reducing reliance on concentrates during the autumn and winter.

It can be used as a catch crop during summer shortfalls.

### Key benefits

- High palatability and easy to digest driving intakes
- Suitable for cattle and sheep
- Fast growing with excellent regrowth potential offering versatile grazing
- Wide sowing window

#### Variety

**Appin** Drill at 2-3kg/acre from March to mid-September. Feed from May to December.

## Vollenda

## Stubble turnip

Vollenda

Stubble turnip is another cost-effective feeding solution in summer, autumn or winter for sheep or cattle.

As well as providing a main crop, it can be used as a catch crop during summer grazing shortfalls.

### Key benefits

- High energy and protein
- Suitable for cattle and sheep
- Easy establishment and quick growth
- Good clean grazing for lambs

#### Variety

**Vollenda** Drill at 2-3kg/acre from May to the end of August. Feed from July to the following January.



## Swede

Triumph

A high-yielding feed suitable for outwintering all classes of stock.

### Key benefits

- High energy feed for cattle and sheep
- Outstanding dry matter (DM) yields
- Good cold weather tolerance

#### Variety

**Triumph** Drill at 1kg/acre for natural seed drill from mid-May to end of June. Feed from December to March.

## Stego

## Forage rape

Stego

Rape is a fast-growing, high-protein feed particularly well suited to finishing lambs.

It also offers potential for extended grazing of cattle through summer, autumn and winter.

### Key benefits

- High leaf-to-stem ratio
- Excellent disease resistance
- Suitable for outwintering

#### Variety

**Stego** Drill at 3kg/acre (or broadcast at 4kg/acre) from March to July. Feed from June to December.



## Irish Native Wildflower Mixtures

Our wildflower mixtures contain native seed sourced from Ireland and suit a variety of soil conditions and individual requirements.

They are designed to provide food sources for pollinators from late spring through to autumn and are ideal for increasing the biodiversity of your garden, roadside verge or local amenity area.

### Light Soils

This mixture of flowering species and grasses designed for light soil types, creates a natural meadow to benefit pollinators and improve biodiversity.

- Contains 60% Irish Native Wildflowers and 40% Ornamental Grasses
- Sowing rate: 2g/m<sup>2</sup>
- Pack size: 500g and 1kg

### Flowering Meadow

The outstanding colour of the flowering species provides a rich food source to encourage pollinators such as butterflies and bees. A blend of annual and perennial species selected to produce colour over several years, it produces an abundance of flowers ideal for gardens or any low maintenance areas.

- Contains 100% Irish Native Wildflowers
- Sowing rate: 1.5g/m<sup>2</sup>
- Pack size: 500g and 1kg



## Irish Native Wildflower Mixtures

### Acid/heavy soils

This mix of annual and perennial wildflowers with appropriate grasses produces a grassland meadow suited to heavy soils, with the flowering species benefitting pollinators such as bees and butterflies.

- Contains 60% Irish Native Wildflowers and 40% Ornamental Grasses
- Sowing rate: 2g/m<sup>2</sup>
- Pack size: 1kg

### Annual Meadow

This annual mix gives an outstanding display of colour in its first year.

In subsequent years, an annual reseedling programme builds a strong seed bank to maintain a colourful display from seed regenerated through soil disturbance. It can be sown on its own or with any of the options above to supplement the perennial mixtures and increase colour in the first year.

- Contains 100% Irish Native Wildflowers
- Sowing rate: 1.5g/m<sup>2</sup>
- Pack size: 1kg





## Contact:

**David Little**

Agricultural Product Manager

+44 (0) 7718 658716

[david.little@germinal.com](mailto:david.little@germinal.com)

**Sales Office**

+44 (0) 28 4066 2277

[info@germinal.ie](mailto:info@germinal.ie)

## Find out more

Should you require any more information or to request a selection of free brochures and technical guides, please visit our website:

[germinal.ie](http://germinal.ie)



Aber® and DoubleRoot® are registered trademarks of Openfolde Ltd.

The mixtures in this brochure are correct at the time of going to press and the supplies of the varieties used in the mixtures should be adequate for this season. If, however, we do run short of some, they will be replaced by the next best variety on the Recommended List.



**Germinal**  
Horse & Jockey  
Thurles  
Co. Tipperary  
E25 D286

**+44 (0) 28 4066 2277**  
**info@germinal.ie**



Germinal is committed to an environmentally sustainable future. This brochure is made from entirely bio-degradable products.  
**Please recycle this brochure.**