Reseeding Pays
Maximise Home Grown Animal Feed

↑ Profit €
↑ Total Sward Performance
↑ Spring Production
↑ Sward Quality
↑ Animal Performance
↑ Response To Fertiliser

Dry Matter Production of 15% and 100% Perennial Ryegrass Sward
| € | Grass reseeding is one of the best paying investments on Irish livestock farms |
| € | Provides more home grown feed, particularly at shoulders of the year |
| € | Home grown feed is the cheapest way to feed animals |
| € | Potential to reduce feed cost or increase animal output |
| € | Each extra tonne of grass dry matter can increase farm net profit by €181/ha for Dairy farmers and €105/ha for livestock farmers |
| € | New reseeds are 25% more responsive to Nitrogen |
| € | New reseeds have higher feed quality than old permanent pasture |
| € | 1% increase in DMD equates to a 5% increase in animal performance |
| € | Regular reseeding programme is best – aim to reseed 10% each year |
Grass Mixtures

Varieties to consider
Ensure all varieties are tested in Ireland and appear on the DAFM Recommended List or the AFBI Recommended List (Northern Ireland)
- These lists set a very high standard - Over the past 15 years, for each variety that gets on the list there are 6 that failed to achieve the required standard. All the varieties that are on the recommended list are elite varieties

Give preference to varieties with good performance in animal feed trials at Teagasc
- How a variety interacts with the grazing animal will affect animal performance

Grass variety traits
The key traits of a grass variety to consider are: total yield, sward density, spring growth, autumn growth, digestibility in summer and silage yields.

Palatability is also a very important trait contributing to good animal performance as it has a positive effect on intake and on ease of grazing out swards. Information on palatability is available for some varieties, gathered in animal feed trials and on-farm observations.

Why a mixture?
There is no variety with the perfect balance of all performance traits. The required traits of a sward depends on many factors; the predominant use of the sward, the soil type, the climatic conditions especially annual rainfall, the likely turnout date, the number of silage cuts and expected date of the first cut.

When formulating a grass mixture; choose between 3 and 5 grass varieties that between them deliver the traits required by the sward. There may have to be compromises as some traits appear to be almost mutually exclusive. This isolates the farm against the over exposure to one specific variety.

The tetraploid effect
Tetraploids have more upright growth habit, produce more open swards, have higher digestibility, produce slightly higher grass yield and offer improve animal performance under grazing.

In grazing swards you want to take advantage of the benefits of tetraploids for animal performance and grass yield but not end up with a sward that is too open, too prone to poaching and soil damage.

Why is Spring Growth important?
In grazing mixtures, a high level of spring growth is important where it is planned to turn stock out early, January to mid-March. This spring grass growth will displace expensive supplements from the animal’s diet. In silage mixtures, where swards are likely to be grazed at the start of the grazing season a high level of spring growth is desirable. There are a number of the better silage varieties that are also excellent for spring growth.
1. Identify paddock to reseed well in advance
A paddock that is poorly performing or has low perennial ryegrass content

2. Do a soil test
This will diagnose mineral deficiencies that may have caused the paddock to lose production

3. Time to ensure appropriate grass supply and soil conditions
Ensure you will have sufficient feed for animals. May/June is the peak growth period
Good soil conditions allow for good till and successful establishment, more chances in spring

4. Target grass and weeds at correct growth stage for spraying
Ensure that there is sufficient leaf to spray and smaller grasses are not hidden in a large canopy

5. Apply Glyphosate @ 5l/ha
This is the best opportunity to kill mature weed grasses and docks

6. Cultivate to create fine firm seed bed
This is essential to achieve good seed soil contact and allow for successful establishment

7. Apply P, K, lime suggested by soil test and 60kg N/ha Nitrogen
Limiting nutrients will create a new reseed with very poor vigour

8. Sow suitable seed at 14kg/ha
Always sow a mixture suitable for use intended and varieties from the Irish recommended list

9. Cover seed and always roll well
Seed to soil contact is essential for successful establishment

10. Monitor for Slugs, leatherjackets, fruit fly and rabbits
Pest can lead to the failure of a reseed

11. Apply a post emergence spray 4-6 weeks after sowing
This is the best opportunity to achieve a dock free sward. Spray once grass has three leaves. Don’t wait for sward to fill in

12. Graze as soon as plants are strong enough to tolerate grazing
This will help the sward to thicken and fill any spaces.
1. Identify sward that are open/poached and are free of dense weed grasses
   Bare soil needs to be visible for the seed to get in contact with it

2. Target weather with sufficient heat and moisture – Often ideal conditions in late April/May
   To compete with the existing sward, seeds need to get established quickly

3. April to early July if clover is included
   Clover likes heats and will need time to get winter hardy

4. Graze a paddock very low or cut for silage
   Ensure that there is no obstacle to get the seed in the best contact with the soil

5. Try source an Aitchison drill, Guttler or similar to improve seed/soil contact
   Overseeding can be a challenging environment for grassed without a traditional seedbed. Maximise seed to soil contact to improve establishment

6. Sow suitable seed @ 8kg/acre, consider high tetraploid
   Tetraploid has a larger seed, with greater energy reserves

7. Make two passes with the seeder
   This will increase seed soil contact and ensure better coverage of the area

8. Cambridge roll or light roll
   Consolidation of the seed bed is essential for seed soil contact and to conserve soil moisture

9. 1500 gallons/acre watery slurry will improve moisture availability
   Moisture is essential for germination

10. Apply 2 bags/acre 10:10:20
    Establishing roots and plants have a high requirement for nutrients

11. If existing sward has shown aggressive growth after 10 days, graze again
    It is essential to prevent the existing sward out competing establishing plants

12. After 3 weeks, seedling should be anchored and sward can be grazed
    Check plants by trying to pull them out of the ground

13. Avoid high covers for the remainder of the season
    Newly establish plants will not be able to compete for light with large established plants

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**Diamond Overseeding**

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<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>ASTONENERGY (T)</td>
<td>4.50 KGS</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALFONSO (T)</td>
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- Overseeding mixture with excellent grass varieties for grazing and silage swards
- High proportion (74%) tetraploids included for overseeding
- Tetraploids have larger seed with a larger energy reserve allowing for greater success when overseeding
- Tetraploids have and erect growth habit meaning that they can compete for light with the existing sward better

Sow at 8-10kg per acre