



Excel

Grass Mixtures 2015

CERTIFIED GRASS SEED MIXTURES www.excelgrass.ie

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INTRODUCTION

Excel grass seeds are an exciting brand of grass mixtures available to Irish farmers, taking into consideration the challenges across different production systems. Excel grass mixtures strive to deliver quality grass seed, with a value for money ethos. The Excel brand has been designed not only using Irish varieties but also by incorporating a wide range of proven varieties from across the recommended lists. This equates to the Excel range having an unrivalled selection of mixtures tailored to deliver proven results on farm. Excel grass seeds have a mixture to suit all reseeding programmes and to complement these we also offer a wide range of forage crops.

For further information on all products featured in this brochure, log onto www.excelgrass.ie

Why use Excel Grass Seeds

- × Certified grass mixtures and varieties
- × New technology in mixtures e.g. hybrid ryegrasses
- × Reseeding can increase output of swards by 25%+
- × Selection of mixtures available and designed for Irish farms
- × Excel grass seeds offer value for money mixtures

METHODS & ADVANTAGES OF RESEEDING

There are three main methods of reseeded, all of which have key advantages, as outlined in the table below.

| Plough - Till - Sow | Minimum Tillage | Stitch Seeding/Direct Seeding |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Cleans seedbed and buries debris ✗ Helps restore soil structure ✗ Relieves soil compaction ✗ Repairs major ruts and poaching ✗ Very uniform seedbed and germination | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Cultivation for shallow topsoil ✗ Repairs moderate poaching ✗ Incorporation of debris ✗ Ideal for steep fields that cannot be ploughed ✗ Fertile soil remains at the surface | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Efficient way to renew swards ✗ Cheapest of the alternatives ✗ No soil disturbance ✗ Fertile soil remains at the surface ✗ Leaves a firm seedbed for early grazing |

Whichever method of reseeded is chosen, the aim remains the same; “to produce a fine, firm seedbed”.

Achieving a fine, firm seedbed will ensure:

1. Good seed to soil contact. This is vital for the seed to take up adequate moisture to promote germination.
2. Moisture will be conserved in a firm seedbed by rolling.
3. The field should be level, free of wheel ruts with no evidence of poaching.

Plough - Till - Sow methods tend to produce the most consistent fine tilt with trash buried. Where minimum tillage equipment like a disc, power harrow or rotavator is used, ensure they leave a fine seedbed, free of clods.

EXCEL CUT AND GRAZE

Grazing with one large cut in late May/early June

This mixture is designed to give early spring growth with high yielding cuts of silage. The mixture is formulated with high yielding intermediate and late perennial ryegrasses for maximum yield, quality and persistency.

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 3.0kg Premium | Intermediate Diploid |
| 1.5kg Trend | Intermediate Tetraploid |
| 2.0kg Cancan | Late Diploid |
| 2.0kg Stefani | Late Diploid |
| 2.5kg Orion | Late Tetraploid |
| 0.50kg Avoca/Rivendel | Clover |
| 11.5kg per bag | |

- x Suitable for a wide range of soil types
- x Cut and grazing flexibility
- x Offers excellent silage yields

EXCEL GRAZING**Suitable for intensive, continuous grazing systems**

This mix contains high yielding, high quality varieties that perform consistently throughout the season. The inclusion of clover in the mix means intakes can also be increased.

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 2.5kg Malambo | Late Diploid |
| 2kg Foxtrot | Late Diploid |
| 2kg Stefani | Late Diploid |
| 2.5kg Orion | Late Tetraploid |
| 2kg Twymax | Late Tetraploid |
| 0.50kg Avoca/Rivendel | Clover |
| 11.5kg per bag | |

- ✘ Ideal for a continuous grazing situation
- ✘ All late heading varieties
- ✘ Complement of diploid and tetraploid varieties ensures ground cover and yield are achieved

EXCEL SILAGE (+/- clover)

High yielding silage mix suitable for a two-cut system

The inclusion of high quality intermediate tetraploids that have been shown to produce large crops of first cut silage and the use of late tetraploids for late cutting quality, ensures this mixture will develop a durable long lasting sward.

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| 3.0kg Trend | Intermediate Tetraploid |
| 3.0kg Stefani | Late Diploid |
| 2.0kg Cancan | Late Diploid |
| 3.5kg Orion | Late Tetraploid |
| 11.5kg per bag | |

- × Inclusion of high silage yielding varieties
- × Persistent varieties for longevity
- × High tetraploid inclusion for high yields

EXCEL HYBRID**High yielding mixture for multiple cutting system**

This mixture is designed for frequent cuts of high quality silage and contains late perennial tetraploids which also allow grazing. The short term use of a hybrid mix allows it to be also used as an arable break crop.

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 3.0kg Bahial | Hybrid Ryegrass |
| 3.0kg Solid | Hybrid Ryegrass |
| 2.75kg Cancan | Late Diploid |
| 2.75kg Orion | Late Tetraploid |
| 11.5kg per bag | |

- × Suitable for zero grazing situations
- × High yielding hybrids included
- × Late perennials give excellent ground cover

EXCEL HEAVY GROUND

Superb persistence and ground cover

Excel Heavy Ground is designed to be competitive and persistent in Irish heavy land. This mixture contains all late perennial varieties with the majority being diploid. It is designed with mid-season production in mind and very good overall ground cover.

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1.5kg Malambo | Late Diploid |
| 4.0kg Tyrconnell | Late Diploid |
| 4.0kg Twystar | Late Diploid |
| 1.5kg Orion | Late Tetraploid |
| 0.5kg Rivendel | Clover |
| 11.5kg per bag | |

- × Suitable for all soil types in Ireland
- × High ground cover varieties used
- × High annual growth achievable

FORAGE CROP SELECTION GUIDE

It is important when selecting a forage crop that you consider all the criteria. Cost per acre is only one element of choosing a crop. Accessibility, future crop, grazing stock, and land type are other criteria to be considered. Guidelines for all of these factors are outlined in the table below:

| Crop | Sowing time | Cost per acre | Fresh weight yield | Dry matter yield | Energy (ME) |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Forage Rape | May-Aug | €130 | 16tn | 2.0tn | 10.5 |
| Forage Kale | Apr-July | €160 | 25tn | 3.5tn | 10.5 |
| Stubble Turnips | May-Aug | €98 | 16tn | 1.8tn | 11.0 |
| Swedes | Apr-June | €130 | 30tn | 3.5tn | 12.0 |
| Fodder Beet | Mar-Apr | €646 | 35tn | 5.5tn | 12.5 |
| Forage Maize | Apr-May | €525 | 20tn | 5.5tn | 11.0 |

EXCEL FORAGE SOLUTIONS



Forage Rape

Forage Rape is an excellent fast growing fodder crop most suited for in-situ grazing by cattle but can also be fed to sheep. It is a very palatable, high protein crop and can be sown as late as August for winter utilisation. Due to the fast growing nature of Fodder Rape it can be put in after cereal crops to give an extra crop in the year. It has a low sowing rate and is suitable for most land types.

Forage Kale

Kale is a high production fodder crop that is grazed in-situ by either sheep or cattle and can be utilised from late summer to winter. It has a better bulking ability over Forage Rape but needs to be sown before the end of July.





Stubble Turnips

Stubble Turnips are normally grazed in-situ in late autumn and are best suited to sheep and cattle. A variety with good leaf content and high roots above ground will allow the crop to be grazed.

Swedes

Swedes are similar to Stubble Turnips and are the preferred choice for grazing sheep. Club root resistance, winter hardiness and high yield are important attributes to look for when growing Swedes.



Fodder Beet

Fodder Beet is best grown for harvesting but can also be grown for in-situ grazing. Choosing a high dry matter Fodder Beet means that intakes of dry matter and energy can be increased. High dry matter Fodder Beets are the most popular option as they can be lifted, stored or fed directly or chopped and ensiled. Low dry matter Fodder Beets are best for in-situ grazing but can be lifted. This will however compromise the life span. Other varieties available are Sugar/Energy Beets.

Forage Maize

Forage Maize can be grown either in the open or under plastic. When growing in the open the variety should suit the location and expected weather. High yields and high starch can be achieved under plastic when the correct variety is selected.



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