



LGAN and the advantages of Sinclair McGill

Reseeding in Ireland is on the increase and the practice of reseeding is being accepted as one of the best paying investments on grassland farms. Grazed grass has been long heralded as the most cost effective feed for cows and drystock, while grass silage is also the cheapest winter feed produced on farm.

Grass mixtures have been put together based primarily on yield with little or no emphasis on how the chosen varieties will be utilized by the animal. One of the most important limiting factors to production is the voluntary dry matter intake of the cow. Increasing the quality, digestibility and energy content of the daily dry matter intake is the most efficient way to increase production. When increasing the quality of any feed it is important this is done in a balanced way, for example increasing the protein content of a feed will not give the desired results without also increasing the energy content. Sinclair McGill are the first to formulate grass seed mixtures with the animal's dietary requirement and agronomic performance of varieties in mind. When a Sinclair McGill mixture has been formulated using this criteria it is accredited with the LGAN (Limagrain animal nutrition) symbol denoting a superior nutritional value whilst maintaining excellent quality and yields. Varieties used in LGAN accredited mixtures have been specifically selected based on their performance in the areas below.

Quality Performance	Agronomic Performance
Energy (ME)	Dry Matter Yield
Sugar Content (WSC)	Disease Resistance
Digestibility (D-value)	Ground Cover
Digestible Fibre Content (DNDF)	Winter Hardiness
Protein Content	Heading Date





The basis for compiling these mixtures is from an extensive database of variety trial results from across Europe. With 3 of the current range

of Sinclair McGill mixtures in Ireland having LGAN accredited status our aim is to have a full range of mixtures meeting the strict LGAN criteria. Sinclair McGill has always used scientific methods and experience to formulate mixtures but with LGAN this allows us to design mixtures with greater precision to application. In on farm trials LGAN grass mixtures were producing 1.4 litres of milk per cow per day over the existing swards, based on a 100 cow herd this is equivalent to €16,800 net profit.

Sinclair McGill traditionally offers unrivalled higher voluntary standards of germination and seed purity along with Headstart gold seed dressing, ensuring maximum germination and establishment. Now with the added benefit of LGAN accredited mixtures Sinclair McGill must be the no.1 choice when reseeding.

ADVANTAGES





Some Seed Companies

Most Seed Companies

MIXTURE FORMULATION

Designed for improved animal performance
Nutritional balanced
Optimum Tetraploid inclusion
Headstart GOLD treated

VARIETIES USED

Selected for yield
Recommended varieties
High sugar

VARIETIES USED

Selected for yield and feed value
Recommended Varieties
High Sugar
High ME
High D value
High DNDF
High Protein

SEED QUALITY

EU Standard Purity
EU Standard Germination

SEED QUALITY

HVS Standard Purity

SEED QUALITY

Above HVS Standard Purity
Higher levels of Germination



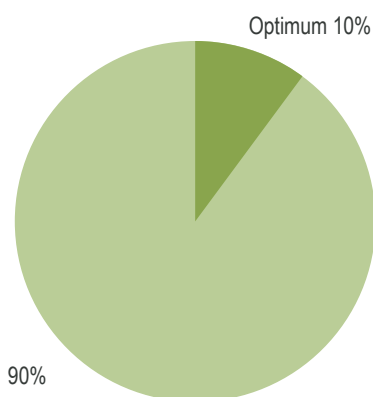
Time to Take Soil Samples

Mark Plunkett,
Teagasc, Johnstown Castle, Wexford

Teagasc's soils database shows that only 1 in 10 grassland soil samples analysed between 2007 to 2013 have the optimum balance of the major soil nutrients to maximize grass production. Soil analysis is the most cost effective tool to optimizing fertilizer and manure applications. An up to date soil test report will provide a sound footing to tailoring fertilizer requirements on a field by field basis and ensures maximum potential return from the spend on fertilizers. Now is the best time to take soil samples and plan lime/fertilizer/manure programmes for 2015. For grassland soils request an S1 test to check the soils lime status, P and K levels.

Good Overall Fertility - All Grass:

Soil pH > 6.2; Soil P and K Index 3 or 4



Soil Testing

Make sure that fields are sampled correctly and take note of the following:

- For sampling purposes divide the farm into fields or areas of between 2 – 4ha.
- Take separate samples from areas that differ in soil type, previous cropping history, slope, drainage or persistent poor yields.
- Avoid any unusual spots such as old fences, ditches etc.
- Do not sample a field for P and K until 3 - 6 months after last application of fertilizer P and K (now is a good time to soil sample). Where lime has been applied allow a time lag of 2 years before sampling for lime requirements.
- Follow a 'W' soil sampling pattern to ensure that the sample is representative of the entire field. Ensure that all soil cores are taken to the full 10 cm depth.

Soil analysis is costing €0.50c/ac/year for an S1 test which will ensure cost effective crop nutrition.

YOUR LOCAL SUPPLIER IS:

