

Clover for Derogation Farms

Following a mid-term review of the current Nitrates Action Programme 2017-2021, new measures have been introduced including the incorporation of clover in new reseeds for all derogation farms.

Inclusion Rates:

- A minimum of 1.5kg/ha naked clover seed OR 2.5kg/ha of pelleted clover seed is required for all new grass reseeds
- Either white (grazing) or red (cutting) or mixture of clovers can be used

To overcome challenges related to weed control especially with docks and chickweed, over-sowing of grass seed mixtures with clover will be permitted provided it is completed in the same year of reseeding.

For derogation farms using grass seed mixtures with no clover included, clover seed must be added at sowing or by over-sowing a later date.

Over-sowing clover into an existing sward

Over-sowing into an existing sward requires a rate of 2.0 kg/acre (3.5 kg pelleted clover) to allow clover to compete with the existing sward. Pelleted (coated) clover can improve the establishment of white clover in over-sowing situations. The coating contains beneficial ingredients to aid faster germination and provide more energy to the seed.

Key Points

1. Soil must be visible – do not over-sow into a thick matt of grass. If the seed doesn't have enough contact with soil, it will not germinate.
2. Control weeds before you consider over-sowing clover.
3. Over-sow clover in April-June. Ideally after a silage harvest or a tight grazing
4. Soil moisture is critically important once sown. Over sowing will be less successful if sown when entering a dry period.

If using a fertiliser spreader:

- Clover seed can be broadcast with one bag of 0:7:30 per acre
- To minimise the risk of segregation, only mix the required amount of seed and fertiliser on-site in the field designated for the seed. Sow a maximum of 5 acres at a time.
- Spread in 2 directions – up & down the field and then across the field
- If desired, apply watery slurry after sowing.

Post sowing management:

- Graze about 10 days after over sowing and graze every 2 weeks for the next 3 grazings.
- Do not apply nitrogen (ideally skip nitrogen for the rest of the year, but at least for 2 rounds).

Mixtures to Order

Drinagh can cater for specialized mixtures using any combination of grass seeds from the Irish Recommended List. These mixtures can include:

- Hybrid grasses
- Monocultures (single variety)
- Overseeding mixtures
- ACRES approved mixtures
- Amenity mixtures are also available in store (suitable for lawns, parks, etc.)
- Fodder crops
- Clover Seed



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GRASS SEED MIXTURES 2024

DRINAGH D74 Grazing

Premium Grazing Mixture

*Available without clover also

This mixture has been formulated to provide exceptional digestibility and palatability by selecting the best possible varieties available. Trialled under Irish growing conditions, the quality and performance of the varieties of the Drinagh D74 mixture is reflected in their position at the top of the Department of Agriculture Recommended List and the Teagasc Pasture Profit Index (PPI). All varieties have a 4 and 5 star grazing utilisation score meaning improved graze-outs and quality is maintained throughout the grazing season.

VARIETY		QUANTITY
Glenfield	Late Tetraploid	3.0 kg
Astonenergy	Late Tetraploid	4.0 kg
Astonconquerer	Intermediate Diploid	2.0 kg
Gusto	Intermediate Diploid	2.0 kg
Chieftain/Crusader	White Clover	1.0 kg
		63% Tetraploid
		12 kg

DRINAGH Permanent Grazing

Proven grazing mixture to suit all land types

An excellent grazing mixture suited towards slightly heavier soil types. The higher proportion of diploid varieties in this mix will produce a dense sward, while also delivering outstanding digestibility and persistency. Drinagh Permanent Grazing contains varieties with excellent palatability for increased intakes and animal performance.

VARIETY		QUANTITY
AberBann	Late Diploid	3.5 kg
AberGain	Late Tetraploid	2.5 kg
AberChoice	Late Diploid	2.5 kg
Ballintoy	Late Tetraploid	2.5 kg
Aberherald	White Clover	1.0 kg
		45% Tetraploid
		12 kg

DRINAGH Superior Silage

Two Cut Silage Mixture

This mixture is specifically selected to produce two high quality cuts of silage per year. The optimum spread of heading dates enables a first cut from mid to late May, optimising yield and quality at harvest. While producing exceptional yield and quality, the Drinagh Superior Silage mixture also delivers on persistency and longevity. All varieties in the mix have excellent Spring and Autumn growth, providing good grazing options also. 0.6 kg white clover included to increase quality and performance of the silage crop.

VARIETY		QUANTITY
Tollymore	Intermediate Tetraploid	4.2 kg
Astonconquerer	Intermediate Diploid	3.7 kg
Moira	Intermediate Diploid	3.5 kg
Barblanca	White Clover	0.6 kg
		37% Tetraploid
		12 kg

DRINAGH Red Clover Silage

Red Clover silage swards can meet forage requirements while improving the protein content and overall feeding value of the winter forage. Red clover silage is higher in protein 16–20% compared to 12–14% from good quality conventional grass silage and can produce high yields on reduced fertiliser inputs. Red clover has the ability to convert atmospheric Nitrogen into a plant usable form, significantly reducing the reliance on chemical fertilizer in swards with a high content of clover.

Drinagh have formulated a red clover silage mixture, designed to deliver superb silage yields in a low fertiliser input system while also producing a quality forage supporting animal performance.

VARIETY		QUANTITY
Tollymore	Intermediate Tetraploid	3.5 kg
Moira	Intermediate Diploid	3.5 kg
Rozeta	Red Clover	4.0 kg
Barblanca	White Clover	1.0 kg
		50% Tetraploid
		12 kg

DRINAGH Reclamation & Heavy Land

Suited for peaty or heavy soils

By carefully selecting a blend of certified varieties with a strong emphasis on ground cover and persistency, a very dense, thick sward can be established. This can result in extra performance and output on even the most challenging of soils

VARIETY		QUANTITY
Oakpark	Late Diploid	4.5 kg
Nashota	Late Tetraploid	3.5 kg
Astonking	Late Diploid	3.4 kg
Crusader	White Clover	0.6 kg
		30% Tetraploid
		12 kg

DRINAGH Multi-Species Mixture

Multi-species mixtures are a combination of diverse forage species with specific characteristics including perennial ryegrass, legumes (red & white clover) and herbs such as plantain or chicory. The benefits of multi-species swards include:

- Superior sward performance through complementary plant species
- Improved soil structure
- Reduced nitrogen fertiliser requirements
- Increased drought tolerance
- High-quality feed through the summer

VARIETY	SPECIES	QUANTITY
Ballintoy	Late Tetraploid	3.0 kg
AberChoice	Late Diploid	3.6 kg
Comer	Timothy Grass	0.7 kg
Rozeta	Red Clover	1.5 kg
Aberherald	White Clover	1.5 kg
Tonic	Plantain	1.0 kg
Puna II	Chicory	0.7 kg
		12 kg