

Reseeding Grassland

Using unique hybrid brassicas as a beneficial break

Full reseed or sward renovation?

Whilst short-term productivity can be improved cost effectively through a variety of over-seeding methods, there is no doubt that a full cultivation reseed is the best method of establishing a new ley.

Plough up an old ley and **carry out a full reseed** when any of the following are evident:

- Sown species make up less than 50% of the sward
- The cost of controlling weeds, pests and/or diseases is prohibitive
- Poaching or compaction levels have become unmanageable
- Rotational policy dictates a change of crop



Why use a break crop?

In the context of pasture renewal, a break crop offers the following advantages:

- Additional forage dry matter production per hectare (from the break crop)
- Disruption of grass-specific pest and disease cycles
- Elimination of pasture-based animal parasites
- Enhanced weed control opportunities
- Extended opportunities to address soil nutrients and/or soil condition


The role of unique hybrid brassicas in grassland reseeding

The new unique rape/kale hybrid brassica varieties Swift and Redstart have specific and unrivalled characteristics that make them key components of the SwiftStart reseeding system:

- Short (8-12 week) seed-to-grazing gap
- Multiple grazing
- High yields of highly palatable high D-value forage
- Wide sowing window
- Winter hardy



THE SWIFTSTART RESEEDING SYSTEM

	SwiftStart For autumn grass reseeding	SwiftStart For spring grass reseeding
	Use Redstart as short term break crop. Step 1 • Early grazing/first cut ↓ Step 2 • Spray off old sward • Direct drill or over-seed Redstart ↓ Step 3 • Graze in 8 weeks • Possible second grazing (in south) ↓ Step 4 • Autumn grass reseed • Or graze Redstart regrowth and drill winter cereals	Use Swift as medium term break crop. Step 1 • Two cut silage or cut/graze ↓ Step 2 • Spray off old sward • Plough, cultivate and sow Swift in autumn/winter ↓ Step 3 • Graze in 10-12 weeks • Out-wintering potential ↓ Step 4 • Spring grass reseed • Or maize/spring cereals
Hybrid brassica sowing period	May to mid-July	Last week July to mid-August
Hybrid brassica grazing period	Last week June to end August	End September to end January
Grass reseed window	Last week August to mid-September	Mid-March – mid-May
Other following crop options	Winter cereal	Spring cereal (undersown grass) Forage maize
Yield from old sward	4 to 6t DM/ha	6 to 8t DM/ha
Hybrid brassica yield	5t DM/ha	8 to 10t DM/ha
Brassica costs		
Cultivations	£40/ha (over-seeded)	£70/ha (ploughed)
Spray, seed and sowing	£132.50/ha	£132.50/ha
Fertiliser	£37.50	£75/ha
Cost/kg DM	4.2p/kg DM	3.5p/kg DM
Forage yields		
Old sward yield/annum	7-9t DM/ha	7-9tDM/ha
Year 1 forage yield (old sward + brassica)	11t DM/ha (excluding possible sheep grazing from new ley)	16t DM/ha
Year 2 forage yield (grass)	16-18t DM/ha	12-14t DM/ha



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