

Game Cover Crops

2010



Crops for game cover and feeding

British Seed Houses has selected its game cover range in line with the requirements of Britain's shoots and wildlife habitats. Whether you're a professional gamekeeper, landowner or manager of a shooting syndicate wanting to improve your shoot and conservation practices, this catalogue offers a wide range of crops and crop mixtures to meet your needs.



Quick reference guide

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COVER AND FEED CROPS

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- Flurry



Cover-only Crops

Canary Grass

Holdfast Canary Grass is a perennial cover crop suitable for pheasants and partridges. It is able to survive on poor or exposed sites for at least five years. Crop management is important for this crop as it can easily become too dense. Drill in wide rows to produce a thick, shelter-providing stand about a metre high. Holdfast is not suitable for the north of England and Scotland.



Sowing		and		Utilisation		Period					
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Packed in 2.5kg (1 acre) packs. Drill at 2.5kg/acre.

Fodder Radish

This fast-growing catch crop can reach knee height within a few weeks of sowing. It is suitable for pheasants and partridges and grows well in all parts of Britain. It is best used within a mixture and is a suitable option when brassica sickness has caused a crop failure.

Sowing		and		Utilisation		Period					
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
						●	●	●	●	●	●

Packed in 25kg bags. Sowing rate: 4kg/acre; broadcast at 5kg/acre.



Cover-only Crops

Swift Hybrid Brassica

Swift is a highly versatile hybrid brassica that combines the rapid growth of rape with the winter tolerance of kale. Swift will establish a cover crop within 10 weeks of sowing and will withstand winter conditions throughout Britain.



Sowing		and		Utilisation		Period					
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Packed in 1kg, 5kg and 25kg bags. Sowing rate: 2.5kg/acre.

Mustard

Mustard is a fast establishing catch crop that provides inexpensive drought tolerant cover for pheasants and partridges. It is tolerant of northern England and Scottish conditions and can offer shelter to any slower growing crops underneath. As the shooting season approaches, the dying plants collapse and form ideal tunnels. Good for soil fertility.



Sowing		and		Utilisation		Period					
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Packed in 5kg, 10kg and 25kg bags. Sowing rate: 5-10kg/acre.

Stubble Turnips

Appin stubble turnips is a versatile cover crop with a rapid growth habit. The crop can be used for spring-sown, June-sown and August-sown cover. The recommended use is to sow in conjunction with a more open crop such as mustard.

Sowing		and		Utilisation		Period					
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Packed in 2kg bags (dressed). Packed in 5kg, 10kg and 25kg bags (undressed). Sowing rate: 2-3kg/acre.

Cover+feed Crops

Maize

This blend of varieties has been selected to combine excellent early maturity with cobs grown at a low height, and also provides important resistance to lodging and generous tillering. Excellent cold tolerance and seedling vigour enable this blend of varieties to thrive in the extremes of the UK climate as far north as Yorkshire.

Drill in wide rows (75cm apart) to give the birds good access to the crop whilst also aiding good cob development.

Add extra appeal by sowing an adjacent crop of kale/millet/canary grass or sorghum to counteract any draughtiness by Christmas and provide a tasty source of feed for the entire season.



Sowing		and		Utilisation		Period		(Declining Cover)				
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
●				●			●	●	●	●	●	

Packed in 1 acre packs treated with fungicide and/or pesticide.

Millet

Millet is particularly suitable for the southern half of England. The crop is a provider of warmth and some lower level feed when sown with maize. The red and white varieties offer different seed shedding times and growth habits.

Millet Varietal Characteristics

	Red Millet	White Millet
Earliness	Early	Medium
Growth Habit	Standard	Thick and leafy
Seed Production	Good	Excellent

Sowing		and		Utilisation		Period					
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			●	●			●	●	●	●	●

Packed in 10kg and 25kg bags. Sowing rate: 5kg/acre.

Cover+feed Crops

Keep 'N Feed Dwarf Sorghum Grain Mix

A unique blend of dwarf annual varieties offering feed grain production under a wide range of UK climatic conditions.



Sowing		and		Utilisation		Period					
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
●	●		●	●					●	●	●

Packed in 25kg bags. Sowing rate: 12.5kg/acre.

Sunflower

This eye-catching crop is best suited to the southern counties and offers some cover until late September and a source of tasty seeds. Ideally sow in a mixture alongside other cover providers such as kale. Dwarf varieties are also available.

Sowing		and		Utilisation		Period					
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			●	●		●	●	●	●	●	

Packed in 5kg, 10kg and 25kg bags. Sowing rate: 5kg/acre.



Cover+feed Crops

Kale

With the development of winter-hardy varieties, kale is now a fairly universal game cover crop. With dense top growth and a bare floor below, kale provides excellent cover for pheasants. In addition if kale is allowed to flower and seed in its second year it will provide a useful crop of seeds that hold well and don't shed. This will also provide a food source for a range of songbird species that can last well into the winter. Second year kale is very attractive to partridges.



For a first-year feed source, include other crops such as buckwheat, forage rape, mustard, millet or maize.

Sowing		and		Utilisation		Period					
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
●	●		●	●					●	●	●

Packed in 1kg and 25kg packs. Dressed with Rovral or untreated. Sowing rate: 2.5kg/acre.

Kale varietal choice is *extremely* important.

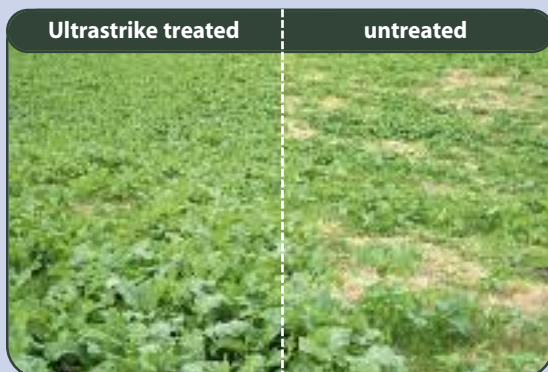
Bittern is recommended for its excellent seedling vigour (important where nitrogen use is limited), dense top canopy, space between stems, good standing and winter hardiness. Bittern also has good resistance to club root.

Maris Kestrel is recommended where a lower growth height option is preferred, such as for partridges. Maris Kestrel has good resistance to club root.

Ultrastrike seed treatment is recommended where there is a history of pest problems.

Brassicas such as kale can be susceptible to attack by pests such as flea beetle, which can decimate crops if infestation takes place in the first six weeks.

Using the seed treatment Ultrastrike not only protects kale against flea beetle, but also provides effective aphid control for up to six weeks after sowing.



Cover+feed Crops

Phacelia

Phacelia is an attractive purple flowering annual that is immensely appealing to insects. It can also be used as green manure. Phacelia grows to heights of around 60cm and is ideally sown in annual mixtures.



Sowing		and		Utilisation		Period					
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				●	●	●	●	●	●	●	

Minimum order 1kg. Sow at 3-4kg/acre.

Buckwheat

As a short-term measure, buckwheat is particularly appealing to pheasants, partridges, deer and bees. It develops rapidly and likes sunlight and south-facing slopes. It will grow to 1m in height within 12 weeks, but may fall after the first frost although its seed will still be a useful feed source. Incorporate into mixtures for both feed and cover.



Sowing		and		Utilisation		Period (Declining Cover)					
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			●	●		●	●	●	●	●	

Packed in 25kg bags. Drill at 25kg/acre; broadcast at 50kg/acre.

Quinoa

Quinoa is an invaluable game crop option. It provides an abundance of seed and is particularly useful in areas where maize is unviable and brassica sickness is a problem. Ideally sow in combination with a recognised cover provider such as kale.



Sowing		and		Utilisation		Period					
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			●	●				●	●	●	●

Packed in 2.5kg packs. Sow at 2.5kg/acre.

Game Mixtures

British Seed Houses has developed a range of special cover and wildlife mixtures. If you are unsure of the right combination of crops to grow, choose one of these popular and proven mixtures.



Dawn Chorus

Dawn Chorus is a simple kale/quinoa combination that provides both food and cover for game birds. The mix typically contains the kale variety Bittern with quinoa.

Packed in 2.5kg packs. Sow at 2.5kg/acre.

Autumn Fettle

This frost-hardy, autumn sown mixture of winter wheat, triticale, winter linseed and Birdsfoot trefoil provides both brood rearing cover and winter feed. By spring the crop is tall enough to attract newly hatched pheasants and, if left, will provide food for game birds and song birds throughout the following winter.

Packed in 25kg bags. Sow at 40-50kg/acre.

999

This simple mixture is ideal for late sowing and is particularly useful where a spring sown crop has failed. 999 is a combination of fodder radish, game cover rape, and mustard. The resultant crop will grow rapidly and provide full season cover.

Packed in 4.5kg packs. Sow at 4.5kg/acre.

Flurry

Flurry is a traditional, extremely popular mixture providing good cover and several sources of very tasty food. The eye-catching combination of maize, phacelia, buckwheat, kale, rape, sunflower and white millet ensures rapid establishment and an appealing environment for game birds.

Packed in 10kg bags. Sow at 10kg/acre.

Game Cover Seed Order Lines

British Seed Houses (Bristol) 0117 982 3691

British Seed Houses (Lincoln) 01522 868714



Sources of Further Information

Environmental Stewardship

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/default.aspx>

The Game Conservancy Trust

Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1EF • Tel: 01425 652381
www.gct.org.uk

The Game Conservancy Trust (Scottish Office)

Couston, Newtyle, Perthshire PH12 8UT • Tel: 01828 650543

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC)

Marford Mill, Rossett, Wrexham LL12 0HL
Tel: 01244 573000. Direct Game and Gamekeeping Helpline: 01244 573019
www.basc.org.uk

The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)

Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2RX
Tel: 02476 696699
www.fwag.org.uk

The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)

Algo Business Centre, Glenearn Road, Perth PH2 0NJ • Tel: 01738 450500

The National Gamekeepers Organisation (NGO)

PO Box 246, Darlington DL1 9FZ • Tel: 01388 660869
www.nationalgamekeepers.org.uk

The Scottish Gamekeepers Association (SGA)

Arran House, Arran Road, Perth PH1 3DZ • Tel: 01738 587515
www.scottishgamekeepers.org.uk

The Allerton Research and Educational Trust (ARET)

Loddington House, Loddington, East Norton, Leicestershire LE7 9XE • Tel: 01572 717220
www.gwct.org.uk/research_surveys

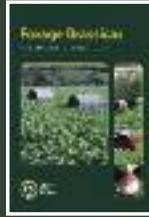
Find out more

A selection of technical guides and Farm Bulletins is available free on request from British Seed Houses.



Out-wintering in practice:

A guide to successful out-wintering with a summary of farmer experiences.



Forage Brassicas:

Planning, growing and utilizing forage brassicas for year-round cost savings and feeding solutions.



Puna II Perennial Chicory:

A guide to successful growing and usage.



Ultrastrike Farm Bulletin:

Effective seed treatment for protection against flea beetle and other pests.

All of the above can be viewed or downloaded from www.bshagriculture.com or can be obtained free of charge by contacting British Seed Houses at either Bristol or Lincoln using the contact details below.



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