

Grass species selection:

Perennial Ryegrass

1. Most persistent of the Ryegrass species and by far the most widely grown.
2. Root depth of 60mm.
3. Yields +/- 13T DM/Ha
4. Flexible in it's use as can be grazed or cut and made into hay or silage.
5. Productive for five years or more.

Italian Ryegrass

1. Only lasts for two years, but is highly productive.
2. Root depth of 60mm.
3. Yields +/- 18T DM/Ha
4. Very open growth habit with few tillers and is therefore suited to cutting rather than grazing.
5. Modern varieties provide high yields with good disease resistance.

Grass species selection:

Hybrid Ryegrass

1. A cross between **Italian & Perennial Ryegrass** and shares characteristics of both.
2. Root depth of 60mm.
3. The perennial gene ensures that the grass lasts longer.
4. A plant is produced that has more tillers and leaf which increases ground cover, making it better for grazing.

Tetraploid Ryegrass

1. Tetraploid ryegrasses are highly palatable leading to higher voluntary intakes. A genetic mixture of previous three species.
2. Tillers less, so more ground is exposed as a consequence.
3. Best utilised for silage mixtures.
4. Should only be used in small quantities in long-term grazing leys.

Grass species selection:

Timothy *Phleum pratense*

- Grows at lower temperatures than **Ryegrass**, and winter hardy so has increases sward survival rates.
- Root depth of 75mm.
- Provides grazing in a cold spring.
- Provides good ground cover, but can be slow to establish.

Lower nutritional value than **Perennial Ryegrass**, and therefore ideal for inclusion in grazing mixtures.

Named after Timothy Hanson, an American stock farmer who domesticated it in 1711.



Grass species selection:

Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*

- Traditionally used in grass leys before Ryegrass species breeding programme accelerated in the UK in the 1940's.
- Similar Dry Matter content to Perennial Ryegrass of 15% DM.
- Root depth of 140mm.
- Extremely **winter hardy** and provides grazing in a cold spring.
- **Drought tolerant** so contributes towards increasing the sward survival rates.
- A *Bunch Type* grass species as it forms dense tussocks that are an ideal habitat for all insects and small mammals.
- Plays a significant part in increasing Biodiversity on any holding. **Ideal for inclusion in EFA's (Ecological Focus Areas)**

Grass species selection:

Meadow Fescue

1. A persistent grass that is often grown with **Timothy** to provide good quality hay or grazing.
2. **Root depth of 75mm.**
3. **Good drought tolerance.**
4. Similar growth habit to Perennial Ryegrass, and will normally replace it in upland pastures.
5. Slow to establish.
6. Low nutritional value.

Creeping Red Fescue

1. Provides a sward that has good "bottom" which ensures a stable environment for grazing animals.
2. **Root depth of 50mm.**
3. Spreads by underground ***Rhizomes.***
4. **Maintains green leaf area even on drought prone soils**
5. Tolerates poor soil conditions, and is of low nutritional value.