



**HUTCHINSONS**  
Crop Production Specialists

# Environmental Seed Brochure

2023



**The environmental seed market can be confusing and the options you choose should be delivering for your biodiversity, soil health and farm business.**

Our range of mixes have been selected to help you achieve the best results with your stewardship, from both an environmental and agronomic perspective.

Each mix has been chosen for their ease of management and ability to deal with problems such as weeds or unfavourable soil conditions.

All these mixes have been tried and tested at field scale on our Environmental Trial Site near Warboys, Cambridgeshire.

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**Please discuss with your local Hutchinsons contact and consider the many important factors before making a decision.**

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We have a wider range of Countryside Stewardship (CS) and Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) compliant mixes available.

Please ask your agronomist for our full brochure 'Your Countryside'.

**Did you know we have a range of catch, cover and companion seed mixes?**

Visit our website for more information or ask your agronomist.

[hutchinsons.co.uk](https://hutchinsons.co.uk)





**AB9**  
Game

## AB9 Game (WBS4)

**Sowing rate: 40kg/ha (20kg pack)**

Specifically designed for use in situations that require winter cover for game, whilst also meeting the stewardship prescription by providing a wide range of winter feed for wild birds.

This mix offers a great alternative to maize, so long as it is drilled on wide rows (16-24") to allow access between the crop for game birds. The sorghum and millet in the mix will hold their structure right through to the end of the shooting season. Soil temp must be 14°C and rising before drilling this mix.

*Complies with SFI **AHL2** Winter bird food.*

### SPECIFICATION

Spring triticale	45%
Spring barley	25%
Dwarf sorghum	8.5%
White millet	7%
Linseed	5%
Japanese reed millet	4%
Red millet	3%
Gold of pleasure	2.5%

## AB9 Basic (WBS1)

**Sowing rate: 40kg/ha (20kg pack)**

**A more generalist winter bird feed.**

This low cost, robust annual mix, provides plenty of feed for farmland birds including tree sparrows and grey partridge. This will provide open cover and shed seed through the late autumn and winter period. Kale can be added to the mix to make it last for two years.

Ideally soil temp will be 14°C and rising before drilling this mix.

*Complies with SFI **AHL2** Winter bird food.*

### SPECIFICATION

Spring triticale	40%
Spring barley	28%
Spring wheat	15%
Fodder radish	10%
White millet	5%
Red millet	2%

**AB9**  
Basic

## AB9 WINTER BIRD FOOD



**AB9**  
Northern/  
cold soils

### AB9 Northern/cold soils

(Northern WBS1)

**Sowing rate: 40kg/ha (20kg pack)**

A mix that can be sown into colder soils, designed for those that wish to drill wild bird mixes early or in the north of the country where soils take longer to warm up.

This mix provides a wide range of seeds for a variety of farmland birds, whilst also containing phacelia which will flower for most of the summer and provide a reliable pollen resource. Can be sown from late March while the drill is still on!

*Complies with SFI **AHL2 Winter bird food.***

#### SPECIFICATION

Spring triticale	60%
Spring barley	20%
Linseed	8%
White mustard	4%
Forage rape	4%
Phacelia	2%
Fodder radish	2%

**AB9**  
Two year

## AB9 Two year (WBS2)

Sowing rate: 40kg/ha (20kg pack)

A biennial mix that provides a good range of seed producing species whilst meeting the AB9 prescription, allowing it to be in place for two winters so long as the kale survives the first year. Having half of your AB9 areas in two year mixes can reduce the workload each spring and also provide year round brood rearing habitat and pollen resource.

*Complies with SFI **AHL2 Winter bird food.***

### SPECIFICATION

Spring tritcale	45%
Spring barley	20%
Spring wheat	15%
Kale	7%
Fodder radish	4%
White millet	4%
Quinoa	3%
Red millet	2%

**Consider:** the kale in this mix is susceptible to flea beetle and pigeon damage.

*You may need to follow this mix with an annual mix for herbicide options to control weeds.*

## Additions to all AB9 mixes

The straights below can be added to AB9 mixes at the advised rates to either enhance the mix aesthetically, provide additional pollen and nectar resource, or make a mix last for two years.

- Sunflowers 4kg/ha (10kg & 25kg pack)
- Kale 5kg/ha (1kg & 5kg pack)
- Phacelia 7.5-10kg/ha (2kg, 10kg & 25kg pack)
- Fennel 6-8kg/ha (5kg & 25kg pack)

## Weed Issues

Wild bird mixes are likely to become weedy, especially if they are sown in the same place year after year.

The most effective form of weed control is to achieve a stale seed bed, this may mean drilling later and allow the weeds to flush first. If weeds are an issue post-emergence there a range of herbicides that can be used.

Herbicide tolerant mixes will vary depending on specific weeds. Thistles, grass weeds (barnyard and foxtail millet), fat hen and redshank are the most common weeds and can be dealt with using an effective herbicide regime.

**Please contact your agronomist for advice.**



## AB8 Longevity mix

Sowing rate: 16-20kg/ha (10kg & 20kg pack)

Designed to provide long term perennial habitat and foraging sites for invertebrates and pollinators such as bumble bees, butterflies and hoverflies. With the correct management, this longevity mix (with a wide range of perennial plants, wild flowers and some native species), will last for the full five years of a Countryside Stewardship Scheme and into any future schemes.

Establish in warm moist soils and stale seed beds followed by regular cutting in year one should give this mix the best start, allowing you to claim the area as part of an agri-environment scheme for many years to come.

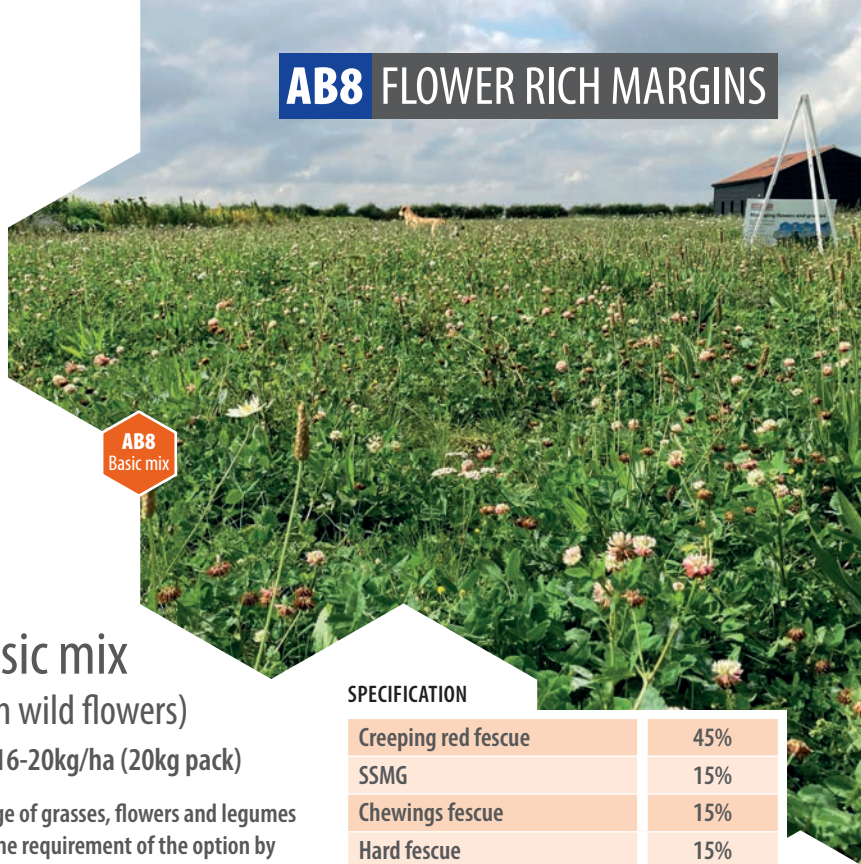
*Complies with SFI IPM2 Flower rich grass margins, blocks or in-field strips.*

### SPECIFICATION

Slender red fescue	25%
SSMG	25%
Chewings fescue	12%
Crested dogtail	10%
Hard fescue	5%
Sainfoin	3.25%
Common vetch	3%
Browntop bent	3%
Birdsfoot trefoil	2.5%
Black medick	2%
Red clover	2%
Black knapweed	2%
Oxeye daisy	1.3%
Yarrow	1.2%
Wild carrot	1%
Plantain	1%
Selfheal	0.5%
Musk mallow	0.25%



**AB8**  
Longevity  
mix



**AB8**  
Basic mix

## AB8 Basic mix (BGM4 with wild flowers)

**Sowing rate: 16-20kg/ha (20kg pack)**

With a wide range of grasses, flowers and legumes this mix meets the requirement of the option by providing an abundant source of pollen and nectar throughout the summer, whilst also keeping costs down.

With a higher proportion of legumes, less perennial wildflowers and no native species, this mix will tend to become less diverse towards the end of a five year scheme and may need to be re-established before being entered into a new agri-environmental scheme.

This mix is ideal for areas of the farm that are being established with wild flowers for a limited number of years. For areas that are being taken out of agricultural production indefinitely we suggest the longevity mix.

*Complies with SFI IPM2 Flower rich grass margins, blocks or in-field strips.*

### SPECIFICATION

Creeping red fescue	45%
SSMG	15%
Chewings fescue	15%
Hard fescue	15%
Sainfoin	2.5%
Common vetch	2.5%
Red clover	1.5%
Alsike clover	1.25%
Plantain	0.75%
Birdsfoot trefoil	0.5%
Oxeye daisy	0.25%
Yarrow	0.25%
Black knapweed	0.25%
Sheeps burnet	0.25%

# AB15 TWO YEAR LEGUME

AB15  
with grass

## AB15 with grass

Sowing rate: 30-40kg/ha (20kg pack)

A two year legume fallow mix that contains ryegrass. This mix is very quick to establish, is more competitive against certain grass weeds and will provide ground cover throughout its lifetime.

An excellent soil conditioner, this mix can help build organic matter, fix nitrogen and provide plenty of nectar and pollen. We advise that you consult your agronomist before applying for this option as part of a grass weed control strategy.

*Complies with SFI NUM3 Legume fallow.*

### SPECIFICATION

Perennial ryegrass	66%
Red clover	15%
Common vetch	10%
Birdsfoot trefoil	4%
Black medick	3%
Ermo alsike (clover)	1%
Lucerne	1%

## AB15 without grass

Sowing rate: 15-20kg/ha (20kg pack)

Schemes that start from January 2021 can use this mix to meet the requirements of the AB15 two year legume fallow option. By excluding grass from the mix, it is much easier to follow this option with an autumn sown cereal, without the presence of a dense thatch of decaying grass roots. The common vetch in the mix should provide good cover over winter, however it will not be as effective at suppressing weeds as the AB15 with grass.

With a higher proportion of legumes, this mix will fix more nitrogen and provide an abundance of nectar in the summer months.

*Complies with SFI NUM3 Legume fallow.*

### SPECIFICATION

Common vetch	52%
Alsike clover	16%
Lucerne (inoculated)	16%
Red clover	10%
Birdsfoot trefoil	3%
Yellow trefoil	3%

AB15  
without  
grass



GS4  
Herbal  
ley

## GS4 Herbal ley (with legumes)

Sowing rate: 30kg/ha (20kg pack)

This mix provides an abundance of productive grazing for livestock whilst supporting diversity with habitat and a food source for invertebrates and pollinators. Herbal leys can develop a beneficial soil structure through the increase in organic matter due to the variety of species and the length of time they are in the soil. The grass in this mix offers a reliable bulk forage while the nitrogen fixing ability of the legumes reduces the need for artificial fertilisers.

An excellent opportunity to incorporate grass and livestock into an arable rotation, whilst still claiming additional support through a Countryside Stewardship scheme.

*Complies with SFI SAM3 Herbal leys.*

**Further legume grass mixes for Countryside Stewardship and the Sustainable Farming Incentive are available through our Grasswise range. Visit our website for more information or ask your agronomist.**

### SPECIFICATION

Perennial ryegrass	27%
Festulolium	20%
Cocksfoot	13%
SSMG	10%
Red clover	7%
Sainfoin	6%
Timothy	5%
Lucerne (inoculated)	5%
Alsike clover	3%
Fenugreek	1%
Perennial chicory	1%
Plantain	0.7%
Sheeps burnet	0.5%
Birdsfoot trefoil	0.5%
Yarrow	0.25%
Sheeps parsley	0.05%

*Stock should be introduced gradually over a two week period and an area of grassland should be available for animals to return to. Water and hay or straw should also be made available. Please contact us for further guidance.*

# AB1 NECTAR FLOWER MIX



## AB1 Nectar flower mix

**Sowing rate: 15kg/ha (15kg pack)**

A good reliable nectar source, this option is rotational, so an ideal mix for short term sites.

The perennial flowers in the mix mean that, if correctly managed, this will provide essential food sources for invertebrates and pollinators for the full five year term of the agreement.

Whilst quickly providing a multitude of flowers in year one, unlike the AB8 options, AB1 tends to lose out by year three/four, from competition weeds and grasses that begin to overcome the legumes.

*Complies with SFI **AHL1 Pollen and nectar flower mix.***

### SPECIFICATION

Sainfoin	33%
Common vetch	25%
Red clover	10%
Alsike clover	8%
Lucerne (inoculated)	8%
Crimson clover	6.5%
Birdsfoot trefoil	4%
Black medick	4%
Black knapweed	1%
Yarrow	0.5%



SW1-3

## SW1-3 Grass margin (BGM1)

Sowing rate: 20kg/ha (20kg pack)

This mix is designed to produce attractive field margins offering a permanent wildlife corridor and a physical barrier to weeds.

It creates a safe environment that attracts a wide range of insects, birds and mammals including providing nesting areas for pheasants and partridges, through the tall tussocky grasses. It has excellent drought tolerance. Beware of mixes that have too much cocksfoot particularly on more productive soils as it can dominate the sward after a number of years.

*Complies with SFI*

*- AHL4 and IGL3 Grass buffer strips*

*- AHL3 Grassy field corners and blocks*

### SPECIFICATION

Creeping red fescue	35%
Cocksfoot	25%
Tall fescue	20%
SSMG	15%
Timothy	5%

## SW1-3 Grass margin No Cocksfoot (BGM2)

Sowing rate: 20kg/ha (20kg pack)

Similar to the previous option, this mix still provides a dense grass margin, however without tussocky cocksfoot, which some farmers prefer to be absent from their margins.

*Complies with SFI*

*- AHL4 and IGL3 Grass buffer strips*

*- AHL3 Grassy field corners and blocks*

### SPECIFICATION

Creeping red fescue	27%
Chewings fescue	22%
SSMG	22%
Tall fescue	22%
Timothy	7%

# AB16 AUTUMN BUMBLEBIRD

## AB16 Autumn Bumblebird

Sowing rate: 40-50kg/ha (20kg pack)

A brilliant option for farm wildlife, this mix benefits from providing both ample nectar and plenty of feed for farmland birds in the second winter.

A great option for those looking to provide spring brood rearing habitat, followed by winter feed for wild partridges or pheasants. Ideally established as soon as possible after harvest.

This mix is effectively an autumn sown wild bird mix, however it will not provide feed in the first winter.

AB16  
Autumn  
Bumblebird

### SPECIFICATION

Winter triticale	25%
Winter wheat	21%
Winter barley	20%
Fodder radish	8%
Common vetch	6%
Crimson clover	5%
Kale	5%
Gold of pleasure	3.4%
Lucerne (inoculated)	3%
Birdsfoot trefoil	1%
Phacelia	1%
Red clover	1%
Black knapweed	0.2%
Oxeye daisy	0.2%
Yarrow	0.2%

## HUTCHINSONS

Crop Production Specialists

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