



# ARABLE SILAGE MIXTURES

Arable silage mixtures offer an alternative or additional feed to grass or maize silage and are particularly suitable for farmers wishing to increase their levels of home-produced protein, and reduce their reliance on purchased feed and fertiliser. They produce cost effective, high quality forage of consistent quality and palatability with high yields of dry matter.

### Benefits

- Harvest arable silage in early August, giving the use of land for the following winter
- A well balanced mixture of peas and cereals sown in March / early April can be ready for harvest in 12-14 weeks
- Can increase protein by 40-60% over straight cereals
- A high dry matter crop which does not require wilting
- More long fibre to stimulate rumen - 'scratch factor'
- Well suited to areas of the UK where Maize production is marginal
- A low cost source of readily available starch and protein
- An excellent Winter forage for dairy cows, cattle and sheep
- A valuable cover crop for the establishment of grass or grass and clover leys
- High DM yields of starch and protein
- Reliable crop with rapid germination and short growing season
- With high intake characteristics

**Drill arable silage, then sow the under sown grass seeds on the same day, roll in.**

### Standard Mixtures

Barley is the preferred cereal as it produces better feeding value than higher yielding Oats or Wheat which dilute the important contribution of the grain by producing high yields of straw, thereby reducing the digestibility.

A blend of high yielding spring barley, with high protein and high yielding peas with very good standing ability.

#### GFS BIP Mix

60% Spring Peas  
40% Spring Barley

#### GFS PIB Mix


60% Spring Barley  
40% Spring Peas

|                                   |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Sowing Rate (Kg/Acre)</b>      | <b>75</b>    |
| <b>Undersowing Rate (Kg/Acre)</b> | <b>40-50</b> |

**Mixed to your own specification and requirements containing Oats, Triticale, Vetch or Maple Peas.**



### Harvesting points

- Cut fermented cereal whole crop when the grain is at the soft/cheesy stage, at about 30-40% DM. There will still be green in the stems (50% green – 50% yellow)
- Once at the correct growth stage DONT DELAY, growth stages change rapidly and DM can change by 2% per day so cut without delay, go early rather than late.
- Cutting height of about 10cm leaving rubbish in the bottom
- A short chop length and good compaction of the clamp is required to improve fermentation stability as the crop has a high DM content
- An additive is recommended to improve fermentation we recommend Biotal 

### Typical Barley and Pea Analysis - fermented

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Fresh Yield</b>   | 23-25T/ha  |
| <b>Dry Matter</b>    | 30-40%     |
| <b>ME</b>            | 9-11 MJ/kg |
| <b>Crude Protein</b> | 12-15%     |
| <b>pH</b>            | 4.0-4.6    |
| <b>Starch</b>        | 14-20%     |
| <b>D Value</b>       | 70         |

Also available bespoke mixtures conventional and organic