

Game Cover Crops



“Reed canary grass and chicory is a brilliant longer term mixture. It suits our shoot as it gives excellent cover; preventing predation but also providing warmth. The mix needs to be managed by topping rides for the beaters and birds to run through. Topping in the spring also encourages new growth. This mixture has the added advantage that it grows in the more difficult sites we have, because the chicory is deep rooting it helps improve the soil drainage and is also drought tolerant. During the summer the insects enjoy the blue flowers of the chicory too.”

John Lewis, Birchgrove Estate, September 2017

Reed Canary Grass & Chicory

LONGER TERM CROPS

Perennial game cover crops provide valuable year round habitat for game and farmland wildlife. They help reduce workload during busy periods and reduce establishment costs.



Perennial Chicory

CANARY GRASS

(*Phalaris aquatica*)



Canary Grass provides excellent medium to long term nesting cover for pheasant and partridge and can be used to both hold and drive birds. It is useful in areas where annual planting is not an option, either because it is uneconomic or too difficult and is a good choice to use between tree rows in newly established woods. Care must be taken to drill in wide enough rows to prevent the canary grass becoming too dense and therefore impassable for the birds. Annual management should be undertaken to keep the rows clear and topping is beneficial if the grass becomes too tall, with the debris being removed.

Sowing rate 6kg/ha
Pack size 2.5kg
Treatment Untreated

YELLOW BLOSSOM CLOVER



A biennial plant which can persist for several years due to its self-regenerating properties. Owing to its sweet smell and copious production of nectar it is highly attractive to insects, which in turn attract game birds and wildlife. Sowing with kale will help to provide cover in the first year, with the tall, woody-stemmed clover taking over in the second year. Yellow Blossom Clover can thrive in the poorest of soils and being leguminous and deep rooting it is invaluable for improving soil structure and fertility.

Sowing rate 6kg/ha
Pack size 2kg
Treatment Untreated

REED CANARY GRASS

(*Phalaris arundinacea*)



Reed Canary Grass is similar to *Phalaris aquatica* but is more suitable for use in exposed northern regions as it is a much hardier plant and will tolerate a wide range of soil types. It not only offers nesting and cover to pheasants but also provides wild birds with nesting sites. The crop is purely for cover and does not provide feed so bare patches may be left unplanted or later cut out to provide areas for artificial feeding. As with *Phalaris aquatica* drilling in wide rows is necessary rather than broadcasting or the crop will become too dense. Annual management should be undertaken to keep the rows clear. Topping is beneficial if it becomes too tall, with the debris removed.

Sowing rate 6kg/ha
Pack size 2.5kg
Treatment Untreated

PERENNIAL CHICORY



Creates tall, dense cover, bolting in its second year to create a 6 - 7ft flowering hedge, useful where a perimeter barrier is required. It has good tolerance to drought, acid soils and major pests (but does not like very wet ground) and has a high mineral content including Zinc, Potassium and Copper.

Sowing rate 5kg/ha
Pack size 2kg
Treatment Untreated

GENERAL PURPOSE REARING PEN MIX



- 25% Amenity Perennial Ryegrass
- 23% Late Perennial Ryegrass (Diploid)
- 20% Creeping Red Fescue
- 15% Timothy
- 7% Meadow Fescue
- 5% Birdsfoot Trefoil
- 5% White Clover

100%
Sowing rate 32 - 37kg/ha
Pack size 15kg

GREEN FENNEL



A perennial plant which provides excellent cover for both pheasant and partridge. Its distinctive smell makes it highly attractive to both. When sown alongside other species it can create an excellent cover crop.

Sowing rate 6-8kg/ha
Pack size 1kg
Treatment Untreated