



Making the most of your reseed

As grass varieties are constantly improving, reseeding a permanent pasture will grow grass worth an extra £2000/ha (£800/acre) over 5 years. Reseeding a five year old ley can produce an extra £1,235/ha (£500/acre) of feed. That's after costs of reseeding are deducted.

Figures calculated by Kingshay Farming Trust.

Knowing when to reseed?

- When grass yield or animal growth is below expectations
- When compaction is difficult to correct in the existing sward
- When the proportion of sown species is low

See overleaf

Things to consider?

Compaction inhibits root penetration, reduces grass yield and increases the risk of runoff soil and fertiliser. This can be dealt with at reseeding and in existing swards.

Soil Nutrients: sampling every 3-4 years should be a vital part of your routine

- A detailed nutrient analysis for minerals and trace elements can be beneficial
- P and K are essential for grass and clover growth and lime increases bacterial and earthworm activity as well as nutrient uptake.

Weed Control is essential for pasture improvement

- Weeds reduce sward yields, energy content and quality
- Some are poisonous and if left uncontrolled will spread causing long term problems for the future.

Variety Choices: Top varieties should deliver high production and help extend the reseeding interval. The Recommended List highlights the differences between varieties. To ensure you select modern varieties, use a merchant contributing to the NIAB/Herbage Varieties Guide Scheme by checking for the HGV logo on supplier information and seed bags.

Key grass species: Perennial ryegrass, Italian ryegrass, High sugar grasses, Cocksfoot, Timothy, Hybrid ryegrass, Fescues, Westerwolds/Rye.

Clovers can replace bagged nitrogen in conventional and organic swards. Red clover is best suited for short term cutting leys, while white clover is more persistent and suitable for cutting and grazing.

Pasture improvement flow chart

