

Oakbank E-News July 2021

Stewardship reminders

ELS JULY

6m buffer strips on cultivated land (EE3 & EE9) – the 3m next to the crop should be cut after **15th July**; **12m buffer strips for watercourses on cultivated land (EJ9)** - the 6m next to the crop should be cut after **15th July**; **Nectar flower mix (EF4)** – if you haven't done so already, cut half the area of nectar flower mix to 20cm by the end of **this week** (unless ground-nesting birds are present); **Very low input grass (EK3)** – you can now (**from 1st July**) cut, harrow and roll (if you need to); **Management of rush pastures (EK4)** – you can now (**from 1st July**) harrow and roll (**NOT CUT**)

CSS OPTIONS JULY

Nectar flower mix (AB1) – if not already done so, establish mix between **15th July** and **30th August**; **Nesting plots for lapwings and stone curlew (AB5)** – retain cultivated areas until **31st July** (after which they can be sprayed off, cultivated and sown with mustard/turnips to provide extra partridge holding cover); **Enhanced overwinter stubble (AB6)** – retain stubble and any subsequent regen until **31st July**; **Flower-rich margins and plots (AB8)** – establish mix between **15th July** and **15th October**; **Brassica Fodder crop (AB13)** – establish brassica or fodder root crop before **31st July**; **Harvested low input cereal (AB14)** – do not harvest before **15th July**; **Permanent grassland with very low inputs (GS2)** – can be cut for hay or silage from the **1st July**, as long as you do not disturb nesting birds; **Legume and herb rich sward (GS4)** – do not cut or graze between **1st May** and **31st July**; **4-6m buffer on cultivated land (SW1)** – cut between 1-3m of the strip next to the crop edge after **15th July**; **In-field grass strip (SW3)** – cut the entire area after **15th July**; **12-24m buffer (SW4)** - the 6m next to the crop should be cut after **15th July**.

Please be aware that some recent changes have been made to Option Prescriptions, so it is always worth checking that your dates are the same as those described above

CS application reminder: Mid-Tier and on-line Wildlife Offers must be submitted by the end of July.



Above is Tim checking out the arable margins at Rotherfield Farms, Hampshire last week.

Game Crops: Maize, kale and sorghum can be drilled up to mid-July and providing they are sown into moisture they will germinate and grow rapidly. After mid-July you are relying on fast growing brassicas (forage rape, stubble turnips) plus fodder radish, mustard, utopia and buckwheat.

Cover and Companion Crops

Great to see so many of you at the excellent Groundswell Show and good to know about all the positive experiences from using Oakbank mixes. We would love to hear your key take-aways from the show as we didn't manage to get off the stand and listen to any talks, etc.

Getting lots of interest in seed mixes for the impending harvest period, so please do not leave it too late to get your orders into us. Happy to discuss your objectives and suggest something appropriate, please call Ian at the office or email ian@oakbankgc.co.uk.



Woodland News

Poor UK Tree Planting Rates Fall Short of Government Targets

Annual planting statistics from [Forest Research](#) for the UK, provoked criticism, such as from [Confor](#) and the [Woodland Trust's](#). The new English Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) which was launch last month is set to make a significant difference to planting rates in England – if you didn't see our extraordinary E-news on the subject, find our guidance to it [Here](#).

Improved tree seed germination

A new, completely eco-friendly seed coating and soil treatment that boosts tree seed germination is being trialled at Forestry and Land Scotland's Newton Nursery, with great success. [How does it work?](#) And could it catch on in the agricultural world?

Woodland Creation Workshop 14th July

If you are thinking about planting some woodland and want to know more about the new grants that have recently been announced, then please come to a Forestry Commission workshop at Ben Burgess, Ellington from 10am – 2pm. Subjects covered include grants, woodland design, resilience to climate change, tree selection, management of trees and deer control, first thinnings and profitability, carbon trading and more. Lunch is provided and the workshop is FOC, but you have to book using the following email: eandem@forestrycommission.gov.uk

On the subject of woodland creation there is very likely to be a shortage of decent planting stock next winter, so if you know your requirements it would be a good idea to order early.