

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 Jul**

Game Crops

Corvid damage – crows are having great fun pulling up young maize plants at the moment. Please get bird scarers out on vulnerable plots.

And don't forget to check brassica plots regularly for flea beetle, slugs and pigeon damage.

Deadlines: 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.

Oakbank Cover and Companion Crops



Oakbank Cover and Companion Crops - We are developing a good reputation for our experience in this area and we would be pleased to help you with any projects this year. Perhaps you are looking for ways to beat Flea Beetle and successfully establish Oilseed Rape, or simply look at ways of improving your soils. The picture above is one of our **Summer Fallow** mixes, an 8 species mix that provides living roots through the summer, plus a vast source of pollen and nectar for our essential pollinators. Please call the office for any assistance.

Woodland Planting Grants – Last call for this coming planting season

If you are considering creating new woodlands this coming winter and wish to apply for grants, then this month is effectively the last opportunity to apply, as the application process can take up to 5 months. Find [HERE](#) our simple guidance note on woodland creation grants and eligibility criteria and give us a call if you wish to discuss woodland creation or any other woodland or tree related matter.

Strategy for England's Trees

Defra has commenced a consultation on the long-awaited 'England Tree Strategy', and they want to know your views on how they can:

- increase tree planting and woodland creation
- increase protection for trees and woodland
- bring more woodland into management
- maximize trees' role in supporting the economy
- engage more people with trees and woodlands

The consultation is accessed [HERE](#) and is open until 11 September. Please make sure you have your say.

Trees and how they can benefit your farm business

The Forestry Commission has been working closely with the [Catchment Sensitive Farming](#) partnership to create a new [GUIDE](#) aimed at land owners and managers in the agricultural sector.

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) alert

The oak processionary moth is a species of moth whose caterpillars nest in oak trees and are now becoming common place in London and surrounding counties. The caterpillars are covered in small hairs, which can cause health risks in humans and animals. The Forestry Commission has launched a campaign so the public can report suspected sightings of oak processionary moths (OPM) online using Tree Alert. Stay vigilant and report any potential sightings - [Learn how](#) here.

Other News

GWCT CLAY SHOOT AT SIX MILE BOTTOM (September 10th/11th) – As we have said in previous correspondence the GWCT has never been in greater need of your financial support to continue with the outstanding scientific research to counter the bluster and rhetoric from the likes of Wild Justice. There is now an opportunity to support the work of the trust and have a very enjoyable day out! On September 10th and 11th the Essex and Cambridgeshire branches of the GWCT are running team clay shoots at Six Mile Bottom, Nr Newmarket. The shoots are both for teams of 4 and involve 5 x 80 bird flushes and 1 x 100 bird flush. The cost per team is only £360 but you will need to bring your own cartridges. The layout at Six Mile Bottom is outstanding and you will have enormous fun as well as get your eye in for the shooting season and make a contribution to the GWCT. For more information please contact Tim Furbank tim@oakbankgc.co.uk or 07843 378702

ELMS SURVEY – The University of Kent has asked us to promote a survey that they are undertaking to find out farmer views on agri-environment schemes. You could win a £300 Amazon voucher! The survey is led by researchers at University of Kent, supported by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC).

There are no right or wrong answers – all your responses are valuable. The information you provide will be kept completely confidential, anonymised and used for only this research project.

The questionnaire takes 15-20 mins to complete. Please click on the link to take part: https://kentanthropology.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8HzsR5Gva7pFn4F

If you have any questions about this research, please email Claire Stewart (cls215@kent.ac.uk).