



Stewardship reminders

ELS June – Nectar flower mixture (EF4) – between mid-June and the end of the first week of July you should cut half of the area of each nectar flower plot down to 20cm to stimulate late flowering. DO NOT CUT IF GROUND NESTING BIRDS ARE PRESENT.

Permanent grassland with low inputs (EK2) – from 1st June can be cut, harrowed and rolled. If cut, the cuttings MUST be removed. **Very low input grass (EK3)** CANNOT be touched until 1st July.

MID-TIER CS – Winter Bird Food (AB9) plots should be drilled by 15th June.

Legume & herb-rich swards (GS4) – please remember that you must exclude livestock and not cut for a five week period between May 1st and July 31st to allow the legumes & herbs to flower.

Two-year legume fallow (AB15) – to get the best establishment of the AB15 mixes you need to get them sown asap after harvest. If blackgrass control is a priority then we strongly recommend going for a mix that includes ryegrass and cocksfoot as the grasses are more competitive with the blackgrass in the autumn. To discuss the different options please give us a call.

Cover & Companion crops – we are taking more and more calls about the benefits of cover crops in the rotation as well as companion cropping to assist the establishment of oilseed rape. Again – to get the full benefit of either, early autumn drilling is essential, so please try and get your seed on farm in good time.

Game Covers – the full impact of the bird flu epidemic in France is now being realized, with many shoots only being offered a small percentage of their birds. If you have been holding off drilling your game covers and have now decided to ‘pull’ some drives then you should consider drilling a cover crop into those areas. A multi-species cover crop will not only help improve soil structure and fertility but will also help reduce the weed burden and potentially deliver some cover for a bit of rough shooting. For more information please contact the office.

Oakbank Shows

We will be at the following shows during June, please come and say hello

1st June - Suffolk Show

11th June - YFC Northants, Towcester

11th-12th June - Open Farm Sunday, Thorney

12th June - Open Farm Sunday, Ely

22nd-23rd June - Groundswell

29th-30th June - Royal Norfolk Show



GWCT shoot walk – The Cambridgeshire shoot walk takes place on the evening of Monday 20th June at Newton Manor, nr Cambridge, courtesy of the Hurrell family. We are very fortunate to have Dr Alastair Leake, GWCT Director of Policy leading the walk, so it's a great opportunity to find out more about the future direction of farming and environmental policy as well as having a look round a stunning part of the Cambridgeshire countryside. For more information please contact Gay Wilmot-Smith on 07501 064828 or email Claire Smith

Roding

If you would like to take part in a count of woodcock, with their distinctive flight displays in the next few weeks, the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust would like to hear from you.

Trees & Woodland

Illegal Tree Felling Prosecution in Wales

Eight hectares of native woodland within the Gower Peninsula Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) have been illegally felled by a landowner in what has been described as ‘the worst offence of its kind seen for 30 years’. Find out more on the story [Here](#)

Pine Processionary Moth: Emergency Legislation in Place

The Pine Processionary Moth (PPM) was found on a small number of pine trees at nurseries in England and Wales earlier this year, having been imported from France. PPM can cause great damage to pine and other conifer tree species and is a risk to human and animal health. Countries with established cases of PPM, such as Italy and France, are now prohibited from importing pine and cedar trees, unless grown in pest-free areas. [Find out more here.](#)

Beware Non-Local Forest Carbon! Phantom forests and greenwashing the truth

Some schemes to plant up trees under the banner of saving the planet are falling well short of targets and in some cases instigated natural forest clearance for new commercial exotics to flourish. The BBC shines the spotlight on a number of high-profile international schemes. Read the article [Here](#) This highlights the pitfalls of buying global, non-assured carbon units and demonstrates the benefits of investing in assured, British grown woodland carbon credits.

Recycling

Tubex has created what it claims is the UK’s first flat-rate service for its collection and [recycling programme](#) for spent plastic tree shelters.

Finally - late spring, early summer is the opportune time for the first of the years young woodland herbicide application operations to aid establishment – see our guidance note [HERE](#) for further guidance.

Max’s interesting fact – this month’s interesting fact is from our Royal Forestry Society graduate, Max, and is therefore both appropriate and timely! Over her 70-year reign, Her Majesty the Queen has personally planted over 1,500 trees on royal visits all over the world. Most recently she planted a Verdun oak, to mark the first tree planted for the Platinum Jubilee. A Verdun oak is actually a sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) that has been grown from the seed of trees still standing after the Battle of Verdun, in the First World War. These trees are now planted across England as war memorials