

Stewardship reminders

Enews October

CSS Mid-Tier – Flower-rich margins and plots (AB8) – Should be established asap if not sown already. If already established, then you must cut (and remove the cuttings) or graze up to 90% of the area to 10-20cm by **31st October**. At least 10% should be left uncut or ungrazed.

ELS OCTOBER – hedge and ditch bank cutting continues as does ditch cleaning. Buffer strips and field corners can also be cut provided they are not cut more often than the prescribed amount.

Nectar flower mixes (EF4) – must be cut to a height of 10cm before **31st October** and cuttings should be removed or shredded.

Field Corner Management (EF1) – unless you included some wild flowers in your field corners you are not meant to cut these down more than twice in the 5-year period (apart to control woody growth). Leaving some areas of long, tussocky grass over-winter creates a much better winter habitat than cutting it all down.

EF23/HF24 and AB12 Supplementary Feeding – if you have this option in your agreement then now is the time to get your orders in! We have three standard mixes suitable for Stewardship but we can also make up bespoke mixes if you want something a bit different. The standard mix includes 70% cereals but, rather than the cereal component being straight wheat, we are using 10% naked oats as they are higher in oils rich in linoleic acid as well as higher protein. They are a great substitute for sunflower hearts, which are in very short supply this year. We have also included canary seed rather than a cheap ‘filler’ such as red dari as the canary seed is high in calcium. We then have two ‘small seed mixes’ for those wanting to use their own cereals.

Standard Mix: 60% wheat, 10% naked oats, 15% white millet, 10% oilseed rape, 5% canary seed

Small Seed Budget Mix: 45% white millet, 25% red millet, 10% oilseed rape, 10% linseed, 10% red dari

Small Seed Premium Mix: 35% white millet, 25% oilseed rape, 15% red millet, 10% sunflower hearts, 10% red dari, 5% canary seed

AB12 Supplementary Feeding starts December 1st
Have you ordered your Small Seed Mix?



Cover and Companion Crops

Many of you have been sending in pictures of fabulous results with the Oakbank Summer Fallow Mix and companion crops that were sown early. Later sown mixes have been waiting for recent rain, but are now starting to motor away.



Woodland & Trees

Oakbank are recruiting again!

We are looking to recruit another woodland manager / consultant to join our expanding consultancy team. Based in the Cotswolds at our Chipping Norton office, the successful candidate will join a dynamic team of consultants delivering all aspects of high-quality woodland and tree asset management across Mid and Southern England. If you fit the bill and are interested or know of someone who might be, please see our advert [Here](#)

Contraceptive-laced hazelnut butter could finally win the war against grey squirrels!

UK's Government Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) research on using contraceptives to limit populations of grey squirrels in the UK may prove to be effective at controlling this woodland pest and has featured in a Canadian news item last month. Read the article [Here](#).

Early Rise For The Ancient Oak in 2020

In the UK, the oak-growing season was 12 days longer on average in 2020 with the earliest first leaf for pedunculate on record, reports an article from the [Met Office](#).

Timber Shortages & Price Rises

The price of some imported timber in the UK has jumped 23 per cent in just one month – July. The trade magazines are reporting. *Architects' Journal* looks at why and the outlook. As the second largest importer of timber on the planet, and having a good, yet largely unmanaged timber reserve, the UK should look to be producing and processing far more of our own timber for our own home use!

Ash Dieback Management and Landowner Duty of Care

The Tree Council has guidance for landowners dealing with this most significant disease since Dutch Elm Disease. It discusses its implications, how to identify it, manage it and landowner responsibilities. Find a link to the guidance [Here](#) and don't hesitate to contact us at Oakbank if you need any assistance in managing the risk posed by your ash trees.

The oak lace bug: A potential threat to oak tree

A Forestry Commission blog post about this potential threat to oak trees has just been published. See FC [Blog](#) here and whilst it has not yet been found in the UK, please stay vigilant and if suspected report it via the Forest Research [TreeAlert](#) App.

Scotland Forestry to Start Deer Cull Early

Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) is carrying out a special authorised early cull of does this month as it attempts to manage the escalation of numbers and unprecedented pressure on the natural environment. Hopefully England will take note and act as well. Read the report [Here](#).

