

Oakbank E-News September 2021

Stewardship reminders

ELS SEPTEMBER

Hedgerow management (EB1/2/3 and EB8/9/10) - you can now cut your hedges. Remember you can only cut half the length of hedgerows in any one year (or a third under EB3 and EB10).

Ditch management (EB6/7/8/9/10) - from 15th September you can cut vegetation on ditch banks and the bottom of the ditch BUT only half the length of bank or bottom of the ditch can be cut in any one year.

From 15th September you may also clean half your ditches (but no more than once during the 5-years of the agreement). The spoil should not be spread on existing ELS buffer strips/field corners.

Buffer strips and field corner management with wild flowers (EE12) – if you have included some wild flowers in your buffer strips or field corners you should cut the whole area to 10cm high before 30th September and remove the cuttings.

Management of woodland edges (EC4) – you can trim up to a third of the shrubby growth before end of February 2014.

Nectar flower mixes (EF4) – between 15th September and 31st October the whole area of EF4 should be cut to a height of 10cm and cuttings should be removed or shredded.

Over-winter stubbles (EF6 and EF22) – you have until the end of September to lightly cultivate the surface to stimulate weed/volunteer growth.

Winter cover crops (EJ13) – you have until 15th September to establish a winter cover crop.



CSS OPTIONS SEPTEMBER

Hedgerow management (BE3) – you can now cut your hedges until 28th February, but only a third of the length in this option. If you have gone for the two-year cutting regime then you cannot cut until 1st January;

Nectar flower mix (AB1) – can be grazed from the 1st September and the entire area should be cut between 15th September and 30th March, removing or shredding cuttings;

Cultivated areas for arable plants (AB11) – can be cultivated from 1st September;

Autumn sown bumblebird mix (AB16) – should be sown by 15th September;

Woodland edges on arable land (WD3) – can be cut to maintain scrub and grass mosaic and to control injurious weeds (no more than one-third cut in any one year)



GWCT CLAY SHOOT

Friday 10th September 2021, Six Mile Bottom, Nr Newmarket

Last call for teams for the amazing, simulated clay shoot run by Richard Clarke and the Six Mile Bottom Shoot. Teams of 4, shooting 6 simulated stands including his famous grouse butts. Its great fun and a fantastic warm up for the start of the game season. It's also raising essential funds for the GWCT. For more info or to book in a team please contact Tim Furbank 07843 378702 or tim@oakbankgc.co.uk

Woodland and Trees

ELM Test & Trial - England Woodland Owner Survey.

Here's a link to the survey which is your chance to have your voice heard and to influence the process in developing the new Environmental Land Management (ELM) grant scheme with regards to woodlands <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QKMW2CL>.

Beavers - Your chance to provide your thoughts

A 12-week [consultation](#) was launched this week seeking people's views on whether beavers should be reintroduced to England's rivers. Here is a BBC article on the [pros and cons](#).

UK trees and habitat value?

A recent Arboriculture Association article looked at the different value of tree and shrub species to wildlife. Have a read [here](#) to find out more.

Young Woodland Maintenance Reminder

Early autumn is the time for your second intervention to be weeding around your young trees. Mow, strim, brush cut and spray to maintain a weed free environment immediately around your new trees and control the taller vegetation in between the rows. See our guidance note [HERE](#).