



## Pollen and Nectar Mixtures

The basis of these mixtures is a variety of legumes and non-legumes (with or without grasses) that flower at different times to provide a continuous supply of pollen and nectar for bumblebees, butterflies and other insects from March to September. Pollen and nectar mixtures must only be sown on improved or arable land.

The Countryside Management Branch have issued an approved list of species to be included in this mixture.

Mix No.1 Grass Free Mix sown at 6kg/acre	Mix No.2 Mixture containing grasses sown at 8kg/acre
This mix must contain 1 non-legume and 2 legumes (FROM THE APPROVED LIST) One of the legumes must be late flowering Red Clover	This mix is made up of 80% fine grasses (FROM THE APPROVED LIST) and 20% legumes and non-legumes.

The habitat must be re-sown after 3 years or sooner if the legume and non-legume components have become depleted.

## Rough Grass Margin Mix

Rough grass margins are strips of land at least 2 metres wide sown around cereal fields. The mixture consists of a number of grasses from the approved list. The grass varieties used form tussocks which provide a useful habitat for overwintering insects, small birds and mammals.

### Morton WB6

Morton WB6 meets the CMS guidelines. This mixture has been used widely across a variety of soil types province wide. The mixture should be topped at least once a year to aid regeneration.

The variety of grasses contained in the mix are suitable for a number of other purposes where less productive grasses are required.

### The Mix Contains:

Cocksfoot / Creeping Red Fescue / Rough Stalked Meadow Grass / Dog's tail / Sheep's fescue / Bent

## Green Cover options

There are a number of seeds which are used for either winter or spring green cover. They are used for weed suppression, adding organic matter to the soil and either fixing or lifting Nitrogen. Most popular seeds include Phacelia, Mustard, Buckwheat, Rye and Crimson Clover. Whilst not widely used in Northern Ireland they are becoming increasingly popular. Winter hardy green manures provide a canopy where soils can be eroded by wind and water and to minimise leaching of nitrogen. Crops such as Rye are hungry for nitrogen and can hold it over the winter to be incorporated and then released into the next crop. Details are available on request.

## Mixtures and Game Cover Mixtures

The Northern Ireland CMS scheme is particularly interested in encouraging a population increase in birds such as Skylarks, Yellowhammers and Linnets throughout the province. There are restrictions put in place by CMS on the seed varieties that can be grown. Wild Bird cover is a spring sown seed bearing crop that is left unharvested to provide food for seed eating farmland birds.

### One Year Mixed Crop

This crop is sown every spring and contains a spring cereal and one of the following – Quinoa, Oilseed Rape, Linseed or Mustard. Morton WB4 is the most popular mix in this group. WB4 contains Spring Triticale, Spring Oats and Linseed. It is a good mix for all soil types but is especially useful in areas where the soil is more acidic. The inclusion of Spring Triticale extends the feeding season into the colder months of January and February when there is less food about.

Due to the relationship between oil-seed rape, mustard and the brassica family (kale), it is not advisable to include them in a mix if you are using it as a break crop between two year bird cover.

### Two Year Mixed Crop

This crop contains Kale plus at least one of the following – Quinoa, Spring Oats, Spring Wheat, Spring Triticale or Linseed

Morton's WB2 is the most popular mix in this group. The Morton's mix contains Spring Triticale, Spring Oats, Kale and Linseed

Morton's WB1 – this is a similar mix to WB2 but has the Linseed element replaced with Quinoa

Morton's WB7 – contains Kale and Quinoa only

### Two Year Mixed Crop Sowing and Feeding Period

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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### Maize Sowing and Feeding Period

May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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