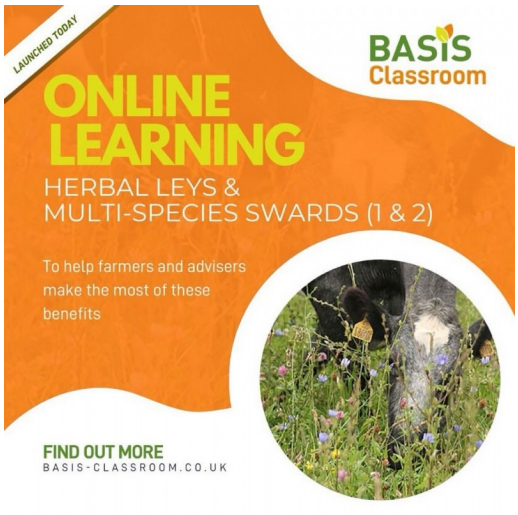
Cotswold Seeds Ltd
The Cotswold Business Village
Moreton in Marsh,
Gloucestershire GL56 0JQ

Digital Herbal Ley Course Launched with BASIS



We're pleased to have been involved in providing content and reviewing course material for this new digital course from BASIS. It is also sponsored by Cotswold Seeds.

Herbal Leys & Multi-Species Swards: Parts 1 & 2 Now Launched

Herbal leys and multi-species swards have many benefits for productive, resilient farming. They can improve soil health, increase the reliability of forage supply in challenging growing seasons, whilst providing nutritious forage that promotes livestock productivity and health, along with environmental benefits of reduced inputs, increased soil water infiltration and increased biodiversity.

To help farmers and advisers make the most of these benefits, BASIS, working in collaboration with NIAB, AHDB, and other industry partners, has launched the first two parts of a new digital course: *"Herbal Leys & Multi-Species Swards: Part 1 – The Benefits"* and *"Part 2 – Species Selection"*, with Parts 3 (Establishment) and 4 (Management) following soon.

Part 1 – The Benefits looks at the ecological and agronomic advantages of herbal leys, showing how they can improve soil structure, increase forage variety, and support sustainable livestock systems.

Part 2 – Species Selection guides learners through choosing the right species combinations and mixes for specific farm systems and environmental contexts.

Course modules feature interactive, scenario-based exercises to support field-based decision-making along with practical guidance and case studies.

This content, provided by NIAB, has been adapted by BASIS into an engaging online learning experience. Thanks to Cotswold Seeds and The Soil Association for providing images, diagrams, and reviewing course content. We are also grateful to AHDB (Beef & Lamb and Dairy), Anglian Water, DLF, Farmers Weekly and the Yorkshire Agricultural Society for their sponsorship and support.

- BASIS members can access these courses as part of their membership here.

- Everyone can also access the courses by purchasing through the BASIS Classroom store: Part 1 and Part 2.

Date Posted: 6th November 2025