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

Simple Herbal Ley

If you've considered experimenting with a diverse seed mixture that's more complex than ryegrass and clover mixes, you might want to try our Simple Herbal Ley. It contains ryegrass, cocksfoot, Timothy, meadow fescue, red clover, white clover, and mineral rich forage herbs including chicory and ribgrass.

This mixture gives you a taste of the benefits from mixing plant species and increasing the diversity of grass leys, with less specific management needed in terms of a mob grazing approach than a full herbal ley mixture.

We're great advocates of herbal leys here at Cotswold Seeds and are often asked to talk about the many benefits to forage, livestock health and soil fertility. Herbal leys have traditionally been used to build soil biomass and structure in an arable rotation, acting as a minimal input, four year break crop, but that's not all they do. The deep rooting species in the mixture add drought tolerance and the mixture of species also ensures a longer growing season while plants such as sainfoin, chicory and birdsfoot trefoil, have anthelmintic properties, creating less reliance on artificial wormers.

The deep rooting herbs, notably chicory, mine the soil for important nutrients and minerals, making them available to the grazing livestock and lowering the need for bought in concentrates. The high protein rich legume content of these leys also reduces the need for expensive artificial nitrogen, since they fix their own. Finally, growing a complex mixture of species significantly increases production of the forage due to an 'overyielding' effect.

Date Posted: 20th February 2017