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## CAP Update - Relevant Information



The main Common Agricultural Policy scheme in England: October 2014 update



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The October update of the Common Agricultural Policy greening schemes week, contains various elements that are relevant to our customers:

### Nitrogen-fixing crops

Nitrogen fixing crops (including pasture legumes) are now weighted at 0.7 which equates to 1 square-metre of nitrogen-fixing crop, worth 0.7 square-metres under the EFA rules.

There are no specific restrictions on the use, location or inputs (e.g pesticides or herbicides) but farmers must have the crop in the ground during the inspection period.

Pasture legumes include: Bird's foot trefoil, Clovers, lucerne, sainfoin, sweet vetch. They must be grown as a pure stand, not mixed with grass if part of an EFA.

### Growing catch crops and cover crops as an EFA

Catch and cover crops are designed to protect the soil and use available nutrients between harvest and sowing. The crops farmers can grow as an EFA are the best chance of:

- establishing within the sowing period
- growing quickly
- achieving ground cover
- having different rooting depth types.

Farmers must use a sown mix of at least 2 different cover types (1 cereal and 1 non-cereal). However, grass can be used as either a catch crop or a cover crop if it was under-sown in the previous crop and is sufficiently established.

Crops that farmers can grow in the sown mix are: rye, vetch, phacelia, barley, oats and lucerne

This list is based on the crops that have been used successfully for Environmental Stewardship in recent years. The regulations don't allow farmers to include crops that are usually grazed, so we haven't included kale or stubble turnips.

The rules on establishing grass on fallow land have changed.

A farmer can sow grass on fallow land during the fallow period as long as there is no other agricultural production during the period. This will apply to fallow land under both the crop diversification and EFA rules. The crop diversification fallow period ends on 30 June.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/368124/reform-october-2014-update.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/368124/reform-october-2014-update.pdf)

Rules updated since 2014

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