



WATSON SEEDS

SALTIRE MIXTURES

• Reliably Good Seed •

2016





FOREWORD

Reflecting back over 2015 there was a large variation in weather factors affecting grass growth throughout the different regions of the country. In the main, it was a year of two halves with the first half providing a great deal of cool, dull and often wet weather which played havoc with grass production up until the end of June. Thereafter the grass took off, the temperatures rose and any concerns about quantities of winter forage to be secured were largely forgotten!

It is abundantly clear however that the adverse economics affecting every livestock sector this past year has proved to be a bitter blow and the seemingly endless need for efficiencies in production has become absolutely vital for the future.

A possible consequence of the adverse economics is that we have seen a rise in rejuvenation/pasture repair rather than full reseeding. Last year some high rainfall areas suffered considerable sward damage and poaching in grazed fields. It makes perfect sense to repair damaged swards by stitching in new grass and prolonging the productive life of the field as a cost effective alternative to a complete reseed. This may well be worth considering in spring 2016.

Throughout the last two years we have started to examine fertiliser and trace elements inputs throughout our trading area in a bid to ensure the grass crop is being supplied with the optimum levels of nutrients and lime. This ongoing exercise is throwing up some trends in plant nutrient shortfalls especially lime but also key inputs such as Potash and Sulphur. It is absolutely vital that good productive grass is fed appropriately in order to get the best results.

We have been successful in securing all of the best varieties we had hoped to include in our 2016 mixtures.

Watson Seeds celebrates its 25th anniversary in season and we hope to build on the traditions of the family run business and promote even further our ability to provide good personal service, advice for specific farm requirements and seed expertise second to none.

We are looking forward to taking on the challenges of 2016 with our customers and together I am confident we can provide the products and advice to meet the needs of everyone.

May we take this opportunity to thank all of our customers for their support in the past and wish you every success in the future.

Peter J. Addie
Peter J. Addie



VARIETY ASSESSMENT

All the grasses and clover varieties used in the Saltire Mixture range have been approved by independent trials conducted by the SAC. From this data the key factors we consider in variety selection include the following attributes:

Yield: Annual, seasonal, cutting & grazing
 Persistence: Ability to compete & survive
 Quality: Energy value, mid season D Value & WSC content
 Winter Hardiness:

SRUC 1st
Choice

NIAB
Recommended

Ground
Cover

		SRUC 1st Choice	NIAB Recommended	Ground Cover
Italian				
Meribel	Very high yielding with very good D values and ground cover for an Italian.			A
Gemini (T)	Capable of producing high D values for first and second cuts. Good yields throughout the season.			B
Hybrid				
AberEve (T)	Excellent spring growth with high first cut D values.			A
Hymer (T)	A good variety with the highest D value in the second cut.			A
Early Perennial				
Kimber	Produces excellent yields under grazing and cutting regimes.			B
Intermediate Perennial				
Bree	One of the best varieties for winter hardiness. Excellent mid and late season growth.			B
Rodrigo	Good all round variety, having high total annual yields under conservation management.			B
Calibra (T)	Very high D value under grazing management.			C
Magician (T)	Yields well under both managements, but especially under conservation.			C
Late Perennial				
Foxtrot	Excellent performance under both cutting and grazing regimes.			B
Mezquita	High yielding variety with good persistency and sward density, excellent for grazing.			A
Twymax (T)	Has a very dense sward for a tetraploid. Produces excellent quality first and second cut silages.			B
AberCraigs (T)	Very high yielding variety under conservation with excellent first cut.			C
Timothy				
Comer	Best spring growth of the Timothys, with excellent ground cover and autumn performance.			A



SALTIRE MIXTURES

Mixture	Duration (Years)	Mainly Cutting	Dual Purpose	Intensive Grazing	Extensive Grazing	Sowing Rate (Kg/Acre)
S1	1-2					14
S2	2					14
S3	3-4					14
S4	3-4					14
S5	3-6					14
S6	3-6					14
S7	6-10					14
S8	6-10					14
S9	3-6					15
S10	6-10					15
S11	5-7					15
S12	3-6					10

The proportion of varieties and species used in every Saltire Mixture has been determined after the most careful consideration of farming conditions in Scotland.

The duration of a grass mixture is mainly dependent on two factors: the component varieties and the management regime. Varieties giving higher yields can often be less persistent so there is a balance to consider between these two important characteristics.

See the chart above for a guide to mixture selection. However, we recommend you consult your distributor, agent or our office for advice on which mixture best suits your needs.

If we are forced to make any substitution of varieties in our Saltire Mixtures owing to demand, we will ensure that we only use the best alternative varieties available.

SALTIRE ROTATIONAL CLOVER BLEND (SRCB)

Varieties	Leaf type
Crusader	Medium
Merwi	
Alice	Large
Barblanca	

SALTIRE PERMANENT CLOVER BLEND (SPCB)

Varieties	Leaf type
AberPearl	Small
Crusader	Medium
Merwi	

SALTIRE 1

A fast growing ley, which can be sown in the spring or autumn to produce large crops of silage.

Variety	Type	%
Meribel	Italian Ryegrass	85.72
Gemini (T)		
Hymer (T)	Hybrid Ryegrass	14.28

Tetraploid variety (T) content – 47%.

SALTIRE 2

Produces high yields of silage and is more persistent than S1 due to the inclusion of intermediate perennials.

Variety	Type	%
Meribel	Italian Ryegrass	34.64
Gemini (T)		
AberEve (T)	Hybrid Ryegrass	34.64
Hymer (T)		
Calibra (T)	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	26.43
S RCB	White Clover	4.29

Tetraploid variety (T) content – 75%.



'We required a mixture that was fast growing with plenty of bulk, this it does very well. We have been very happy with the mixture.'

John Dalrymple, High Auchtralure, Stranraer, Wigtownshire



'This Saltire 3 special mix was direct sown after a break crop of turnips and then used to fatten lambs throughout the year. This has worked great for us.'

Les Donaldson, Messrs D & DL Donaldson, Greenford Farm, Arbirlot, Arbroath, Angus.

SALTIRE 3

Highly productive dual purpose mixture which will produce large cuts of silage and quality grazing

Variety	Type	%
Bree	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	58.21
Rodrigo		
Calibra (T)		
Magician (T)		
Foxtrot	Late Perennial Ryegrass	25.72
Twymax (T)		
Comer	Timothy	10.71
S RCB	White Clover	5.36

Tetraploid variety (T) content – 50%.

SALTIRE 4

Due to the inclusion of early grasses, this ley is well suited to light land and requires early grazing. Adaptable to either a cutting or grazing regime.

Variety	Type	%
Kimber	Early Perennial Ryegrass	14.28
Bree	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	41.78
Calibra (T)		
Magician (T)		
Foxtrot	Late Perennial Ryegrass	26.44
Twymax (T)		
Comer	Timothy	12.14
S RCB	White Clover	5.36

Tetraploid variety (T) content – 39%.

SALTIRE 5

Highly versatile dual purpose mixture, which will produce two large cuts of silage and quality grazing.

Variety	Type	%
Bree	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	31.78
Rodrigo		
Magician (T)		
Foxtrot	Late Perennial Ryegrass	51.43
AberCraigs (T)		
Twymax (T)		
Comer	Timothy	11.79
S RCB	White Clover	5.0

Tetraploid variety (T) content – 40%.



Mark Hosford from Ovens Co. Cork manages a mainly arable farm that produces winter barley. He also contract grows maize and grass silage for local dairy farmers.

'Saltire 5 is a very useful mixture for our farm enterprise. It has done a great job producing bumper crops of silage'.



'We are always very pleased with the grass seed mixture we get from Watson Seeds. It takes off well in the spring and after it has been cut for silage and always has plenty vigour. The silage is fed to our 125 suckler cow herd.'

Martin Lawrie of John M Lawrie, Newton of Arbirlot, Arbroath, Angus.



'We have used Watson's grass mixture for many years and Bert M Eggo & Sons prior to that. We always get good quality silage from the grass which means we can feed the cattle more economically without buying as much feed in.'

Drew Wilson, Greenhead Farm, Rescobie, Forfar, Angus

SALTIRE 6

Our most popular Saltire Mixture. Contains persistent varieties ensuring good yields for cutting and grazing over many years.

Variety	Type	%
Bree	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	41.08
Rodrigo		
Calibra (T)		
Magician (T)		
Foxtrot	Late Perennial Ryegrass	41.06
Twymax (T)		
Comer	Timothy	12.14
S RCB	White Clover	5.72

Tetraploid variety (T) content – 41%.

SALTIRE 7

Excellent grazing mixture for long term performance

Variety	Type	%
Bree	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	25.0
Calibra (T)		
Foxtrot	Late Perennial Ryegrass	55.72
Mezquita		
AberCraigs (T)		
Twymax (T)		
Comer	Timothy	12.15
S RCB	White Clover	7.14

Tetraploid variety (T) content – 38%.

'The Watson Seeds specially adapted Saltire 7 mixture we use, on improved grassland up to 700 feet on our farm, always lasts a great period of time. It successfully fattens lambs, progressing on to take good cuts of silage. We are always pleased with the service from Watson Seeds.' **Scott Mather, Firm of WM Mather & Son, Shandford Farm, Brechin, Angus.**





'I have used Watson Seeds for a number of years having previously bought from Sandy Eggo of Bert M Eggo & Sons. I am always extremely pleased with the grass mixtures. The field pictured above is 7 years old and the sward is still looking very well.' **Alex Sanger, Rosemount Farms, Prettycur, Hillside, Montrose, Angus**

SALTIRE 8

This mixture combines the benefits of intermediate and late perennial ryegrass with highly palatable timothy and white clover. It can be grown for silage or hay.

Variety	Type	%
Kimber	Early Perennial Ryegrass	10.72
Bree	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	28.57
Calibra (T)		
Magician (T)		
Foxtrot	Late Perennial Ryegrass	42.85
AberCraigs (T)		
Twymax (T)		
Comer	Timothy	10.72
S RCB	White Clover	7.14

Tetraploid variety (T) content – 41%.

SALTIRE 9

Provides good growth for early grazing or cutting. The ley tolerates dry conditions due to the deep roots of cocksfoot.

Variety	Type	%
Hymer (T)	Hybrid Ryegrass	13.33
Kimber	Early Perennial Ryegrass	6.67
Bree	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	30.01
Calibra (T)		
Magician (T)		
Foxtrot	Late Perennial Ryegrass	26.65
Twymax (T)		
Comer	Timothy	10.0
Lidacta	Cocksfoot	6.67
S PCB	White Clover	6.67

Tetraploid variety (T) content – 50%.

SALTIRE 10

A long term ley that combines perennial ryegrass with drought-resistant cocksfoot. Cocksfoot needs frequent grazing.

Variety	Type	%
Kimber	Early Perennial Ryegrass	6.67
Bree	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	33.34
Calibra (T)		
Magician (T)		
Foxtrot	Late Perennial Ryegrass	26.66
Twymax (T)		
Comer	Timothy	10.0
Lidacta	Cocksfoot	13.33
S PCB	White Clover	10.0

Tetraploid variety (T) content – 37%.

SALTIRE 11

Designed to produce high D Value silage. Has a very dense leafy sward. Contains no timothy.

Variety	Type	%
Bree	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	13.33
Foxtrot	Late Perennial Ryegrass	86.67
Mezquita		
AberCraigs (T)		
Twymax (T)		

Tetraploid variety (T) content – 40%.

'I have used the Saltire 11 on a number of occasions and I have always been very pleased with the quality of the grass for silage and grazing. It always produces a lush grazing sward with plenty of bottom that can stand grazing in wet weather.' **Robin White, Hightae Farm, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbrightshire**



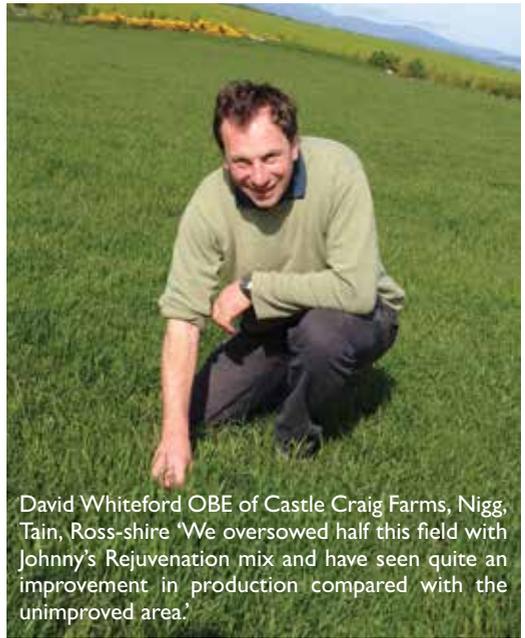
SALTIRE 12

Suitable for overseeding or direct drilling into an old sward to improve quality & productivity.

Also available with clover

Variety	Type	%
Hymer (T)	Hybrid Ryegrass	10.0
Calibra (T)	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	40.0
AberCraigs (T)	Late Perennial Ryegrass	50.0
Twymax (T)		

Tetraploid variety (T) content – 100%.



David Whiteford OBE of Castle Craig Farms, Nigg, Tain, Ross-shire 'We oversowed half this field with Johnny's Rejuvenation mix and have seen quite an improvement in production compared with the unimproved area.'

'I have used Watson Seeds for a number of seasons. I am delighted with the results from the mixtures and the performance of the stock.'

George Nicolson, Brocklock, Kirkpatrick Durham, Castle Douglas



2017 WORLD ANGUS FORUM

Watson Seeds will be proud sponsors of the 2017 World Angus Forum. A number of our customers will be hosting the farm tour element of the event. For more information please visit www.worldangusforum2017.com



**Thursday 15th June –
Monday 3rd July 2017**

'We are greatly honoured to be hosting the World Angus Forum in the United Kingdom and Ireland next year.

'It is 40 years since the event was held here in Scotland, the home of the breed. It was planned for 2001 but had to be cancelled due to the foot and mouth epidemic. The success of the breed throughout the world has developed considerably since then and this forum gives us the opportunity to showcase this iconic breed in it's homeland.'

Alex Sanger, Chairman of the 2017 World Angus Forum Organising Committee.



Alex Sanger, Owner of Rosemount Farms, Prettycur, Montrose, Angus, with his Aberdeen Angus herd in a field of Watson Seeds special mixture.



GORILLA FORAGE RAPE

Johnny inspecting a field of Gorilla at Lower Seafield Farm, Portmahomack, Easter Ross, with the Dornoch coastline in the background.

The variety was bred by DSV in Germany. It is a shorter forage rape with a high leaf to stem ratio and good standing ability. The dry matter content of Gorilla is higher than average which leads to higher total dry matter yields and has the ability to regrow after an early grazing.

Lower Seafield is farmed in partnership with James Scott & Partners, Fearn Farm, Easter Ross.

Photograph by kind permission of Mr W Vass.



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF PREMIUM PERFORMANCE SEED

I find it very hard to believe that it was 25 years ago that I returned to Scotland to establish my own seeds business. I had benefited from the experience of working for a blue chip multinational seeds business down South, but had a real passion to return to Scotland to offer the farming community a grass seed service dedicated to the best interests of the customer. My first year of calling on farms trying to build a clientele was hard going but through time I developed an important collection of very supportive customers.

Les Anderson, my very first customer - seed order number 1!

I vividly remember to this day calling at West Morriston Farm to introduce my new seeds venture to Farm Manager Les Anderson at Hamish Morison Farming Ltd. He promptly furnished me with an order of kale seed and therefore became my very first customer. Les and I are seen here in December 2015 chatting in his office just as we did all those years ago. He continues to be a valued customer.



photo by Glyn Satterley

Client loyalty means a great deal to our business. Here is a small selection of my original customers of 25 years ago that still continue to support us to this day.

'Johnny and I have enjoyed a very happy business association stretching right back to the origins of Watson Seeds. I have kept every seeds catalogue over the years in my office! Through all these years Johnny has always enthusiastically provided a personal service and seeds of the highest quality. Our beef enterprise here at C. G. Greig Farms Ltd has greatly benefited from his Castle Mixtures.'

Pat Lambert, Farms Manager.



Some of my very first customers called on our AgriScot stand in November 2015.



George Neill

George Neill, Thornington Farm, The Borders, has been a very important customer of mine throughout my seeds career, I have greatly valued his advice and support.



Herbie Gladstone

Herbie Gladstone, Fullarton Farm, Penicuik, has been a very supportive customer. I remember calling at Fullarton Farm in my first year and Herbie ordered seed for The Postbox field.



David, Andy & Robert Baird

The Baird family of Harpertoun and West Hassington Mains were my 5th customer. I enjoyed the support of their late father, Gilbert and hope to be dealing with the next generation for years to come.



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