



WATSON SEEDS

SALTIRE MIXTURES

• Reliably Good Seed •

2017





FOREWORD

The past calendar year has been somewhat eventful and whilst it is not prudent to discuss politics it is very difficult to avoid getting wrapped up in the consequences of the major political events which have taken place in 2016.

Our agricultural industry is renowned for being adaptable, innovative and inventive and we are undoubtedly facing lots of change in the next few years so we must be prepared to take advantage of new opportunities which present themselves as the Brexit process unfolds.

We offer a personal and efficient service with the best seeds and seed mixtures on the market tailored to the individual needs of our customer's.

Our close collaboration with the plant breeders and grass seed producers that supply us from across Europe, developed over decades of friendship and business, has helped us procure our seeds for this years mixtures at very competitive prices, despite the weakness of the pound. We are passing this benefit onto you our customers. This of course is not being done at the expense of the quality of the varieties selected for the mixtures.

We are delighted to be associated with customers who are winning awards and being recognised for their achievements in

farming and it is satisfying to be involved with some of the top performers in the industry. It is their success that might well help in leading the way to taking on the challenges which face our industry in years ahead.

May I take this opportunity to thank all our customers for their support, it is greatly appreciated.

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:

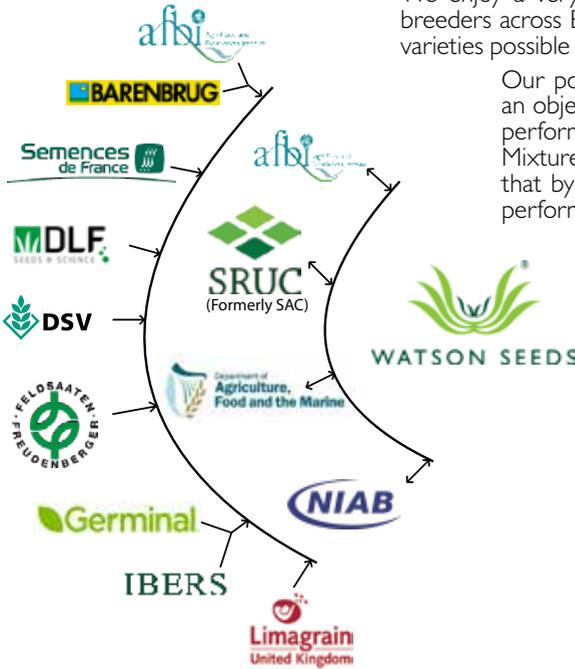
- Yield:** Annual, seasonal, cutting & grazing
- Persistence:** Ability to compete & survive
- Quality:** Energy value, mid season D Value & WSC content
- Winter Hardiness:**

		AFBI or DAFM Recommended	SRUC 1st Choice	NIAB Recommended	Ground Cover
ITALIAN RYEGRASS					
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 RYEGRASS					
AberEve (T)	 A good variety with the highest D value in the second cut.				A
Hymer (T)	Good spring growth. Yields particularly well at the first silage cut.				A
INTERMEDIATE PERENNIAL RYEGRASS					
Solomon	REE heading date is only a day later than early perennial Kimber. Very good early spring growth and yields well under both managements.				B
Bree	One of the best varieties for winter hardiness. Excellent mid and late season growth.				B
Premium	A similar variety to Bree with good all round characters.				B
AstonEnergy (T)	A great variety in forage quality for both grazing and cutting.				B
Calibra (T)	Very high D value under grazing management.				C
Eurostar (T)	Excellent all rounder with very high D values under conservation, both first and second cut.				B
LATE PERENNIAL RYEGRASS					
AstonChieftain	Produces goods yields under both managements and good ground cover.				A
Pastour	From the same stable as Foxtrot with similar attributes.				C
Mezquita	High yielding variety with good persistency and sward density, excellent for grazing.				A
Delphin (T)	Enjoys good spring growth and 1st cut yield. Good annual yield.				C
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

SPOILT FOR FIRST CHOICE

We enjoy a very positive relationship with a range of key breeders across Europe that enables us to procure the best varieties possible for our Castle Mixtures.

Our position of independence enables us to take an objective view on varietal selection with animal performance at the heart of our selection process. Mixture changes are only made if we genuinely feel that by doing so we have improved the potential performance of the mixture.



- ✓ Better varieties
- ✓ Better mixtures
- ✓ Better field performance
- ✓ Better animal performance
- ✓ Better farm profit

SEED QUALITY

Our commitment to providing you with the very best seed mixtures is achieved by only using seed stocks of the highest quality available.

All individual seed lots that are used in Castle Mixtures™ are produced to a level of purity, quality and germination far in excess of even the highest voluntary standards.

TYPE	E.U. Minimum %	E.U.H.VS Minimum %	CASTLE MIXTURE Actual %
Early PRG (D)	80	80	90
Intermediate PRG (D)	80	80	94.4
Intermediate PRG (T)	80	80	93.9
Late PRG (D)	80	80	95
Late PRG (T)	80	80	94.4
Mean	80	80	93.5

ADVANTAGES OF HIGHER GERMINATION

- More viable plants established
- Helps create greater sward density
- More resistant to weed invasion
- Greater poaching resistance
- Improved sward performance over a long period.

SOIL MATTERS



pH 5



pH 6

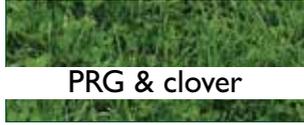
It's worth testing your soil routinely and in particular prior to reseed

Watson Seeds have tested hundreds of samples throughout 2015 & 2016 and the table below shows the percentage of soils that were found to be below the ideal nutrient levels for grass and the impact it has.

ACIDIC SOILS ENCOURAGE THE COLONISATION OF WILD UNPRODUCTIVE GRASSES



Wild grasses



PRG & clover

pH	58.8% below 6.0	A low pH results in inefficient utilisation of NPK and poor overall plant health
Phosphorus	37.7% below Index 2	Phosphorus deficiency in the soil causes poor root development and plant establishment
Potassium	59.4% below Index 2-	Potassium deficiency has a profound influence on plant health and leads to inefficient nitrogen uptake
Magnesium	1.4% below Index 2	High levels of soil magnesium inhibits potassium availability and impacts on good soil conditions

All the above deficiencies are severely reducing potential animal performance and profit - unlock the potential on your farm.

If you would like more information please contact the office on 01368 840655

SOIL AERATION

Throughout the prolonged wet spring of 2016 it was evident that soil was becoming compacted on many farms. Even grazing sheep were poaching grass, compacting the ground and swards became quite muddy and open if they were densely stocked. The end result of any excessive tramping by stock or use of machinery when soils are too wet is that compaction occurs. This essentially expels oxygen from the root zone and nutrients don't pass from the soil to the plants as efficiently as they should. Compaction also limits the activity of soil microbes and invertebrates and the whole subterranean ecosystem is drastically affected.

This can be corrected by subsoiling or aeration. Assuming conditions are suitable, aeration breaks up the compacted soil which oxygenates the soil enabling the soil microorganisms and invertebrates

to function properly. It also assists the natural drainage of the soil and boosts grass production significantly. We have seen some excellent examples of positive improvement after soil aeration and would strongly recommend it where we know soils have become compacted.



A waterlogged field pictured in spring 2016

SALTIRE I - Silage Extra

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

Variety	Type	%
Bree	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	31.78
Premium		
Eurostar (T)		
Pastour	Late Perennial Ryegrass	51.43
AberCraigs (T)		
Delphin (T)		
Comer	Timothy	11.79
S RCB	White Clover	5.0

Tetraploid variety (T) content – 40%.

This mixture is designed to deliver both exceptional silage quality and yield followed by lush regrowth for aftermath grazing. Saltire Silage Extra contains the most appropriate perennial ryegrasses selected from the Irish recommended list of grass varieties. This mixture is ideally suited to two sward silage systems and also zero grazing where the aim is to maximise digestibility and yield potential.



SALTIRE 2 - Cut & Graze

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

Variety	Type	%
Bree	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	41.2
Premium		
Calibra (T)		
AstonEnergy (T)		
Mezquita	Late Perennial Ryegrass	53.08
Pastour		
AberCraigs (T)		
Delphin (T)		
S RCB	White Clover	5.72

Tetraploid variety (T) content – 41%.

A versatile mixture formulated to produce abundant quality grass for silage and grazing systems. Ideal for both dairy and dry-stock grazing systems. Contains many of the most current recommended grass varieties which are selected to meet the nutritional demands of milk production and animal growth.



SALTIRE 3 - Quality Grazing

Excellent grazing mixture for long term performance

Variety	Type	%
Bree	Intermediate	25.0
Calibra (T)	Perennial Ryegrass	
AstonChieftain	Late Perennial Ryegrass	67.9
Mezquita		
AberPlentiful (T)		
Delphin (T)		
S RCB	White Clover	7.1

Tetraploid variety (T) content – 39%.

Saltire Quality Grazing contains many of the highest performing varieties from the Irish recommended grass variety list. The varieties selected for this mixture perform well in both quality and growth parameters and can meet the demands of the most productive grassland farmers. Saltire Quality Grazing is formulated to help achieve the highest animal performance through its exceptional digestibility values and can also prolong the grazing season with excellent growth rates.



SALTIRE 4 - Long Term

A long term mixture that combines the benefits of intermediate and late perennials with highly palatable timothy and white clover.

Variety	Type	%
Solomon	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	39.29
Bree		
Calibra (T)		
Eurostar (T)		
Pastour	Late Perennial Ryegrass	42.85
AberCraigs (T)		
Delphin (T)		
Comer	Timothy	10.72
S RCB	White Clover	7.14

Tetraploid variety (T) content – 41%.

Saltire Long Term is a purposefully designed mixture for the more difficult reseeding situations and is specifically suited to wet, peaty or heavier soils.

The varieties included within this mixture are selected for their outstanding ground cover and persistency while also being highly palatable and digestible.



YARA GRASS PRIX

Congratulations to Drew and Margaret Wilson, Greenhead Farm, Rescobie, Forfar on winning the Yara Grass Prix competition in 2016.

The Yara competition is a challenge between leading beef and dairy farmers from the UK and Ireland competing to achieve the highest energy yield from grass. The winner is the grower with the highest value grass measured as a combination of Metabolisable Energy yield (ME per ha) and Crude Protein yield summed over the first two silage cuts.

A cumulative yield over the first two silage cuts of just over 62 T FW/ha was achieved. With a dry matter averaging 33%, this is equivalent to 21 T DM/ha. The quality was good too with ME averaging 10.4 MJ/kg and CP 16.1% this gives a cumulative energy yield of 218,699 MJ/ha and a protein yield of 3,385 kg/ha. The silage is fed to finish over 700 bought in store cattle over the winter along with home grown barley fed as a Total Mixed Ration.

The Wilsons' secrets of success? Routine soil testing, to identify nutrient requirements; regularly re-seeding, always into a soil of pH 6.2 to 6.3; keet the drainage right, monitor compaction, and graze hard with sheep before getting them off early so the sward can increase cover again to protect it going into the winter.

'I put down our success in the Yara Grass Prix competition partly to the quality of the grass seed mixtures supplied by Watson Seeds. The advice and support that I receive from Alex Eggo is greatly appreciated.'

Drew Wilson, Greenhead Farm, Rescobie, Forfar, Angus.



Johnny presenting Drew with a bottle of Watson Seeds' 'Afore Ye Sow' whisky at AgriScot.



SUCCESS FOR WATSON SEEDS CUSTOMERS AT AGRISCOT

16th November 2016

SILAGE COMPETITION - with over 100 entries from across the farming community in the UK.



First place in the 1st Cut Clamp went to James McCammond Farmers, Randelstown, Co Antrim. Judge Hugh McClymont with the winning sample.



Martin & Sandy Bergius, Over Langshaw, Galashiels, winner of the Big Bale category. Pictured here with Johnny and their winning sample.



1st place in the Young Farmer's category went to Joanne Hiddleston, The Park Farm, Shawhead. Her brother, Ian, is seen here with the prize winning sample.

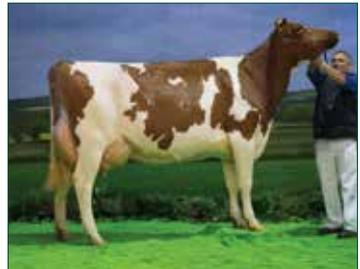
DAIRY COW COMPETITION



The Laird family, Blythbridge, West Linton won the SuperCow award with their Holstein Illens Atwood Australia.



Arthur Lawrie and sons James and David won the Ayrshire championship with Cuthill Towers Crown Ray.



Michael and Peter Howie won the red and white champion with their Morwick Classic Princess Red.

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FARM OF THE YEAR COMPETITION



Scottish Dairy Farm of the Year 2016:

Keith & Irene Millar and sons, Donald and David's Trailflat Farm, Lochmaben, Dumfries.



Scottish Sheep Farm of the Year 2016:

Graham & Kathleen Lofthouse, Bankhouse Farm, Stow, Galashiels, Borders.

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