



WATSON SEEDS

SALTIRE MIXTURES

• Reliably Good Seed •

2018



FOREWORD

Respice, Prospice - Look Backwards, Look Forwards.
The motto from my old school Ayr Academy established in 1233 AD.

My grandfather, John Watson, entered the seed trade in Ayr in 1918, a century ago, at the end of the Great War. He came from a long line of farming stock from Ayrshire going beyond the time of Robert Burns. He was an early pioneer of grass breeding among other crops and dedicated much of his life to the seed trade. Britain had to pull itself out of the end of the War and the resilience of the farming industry played a crucial role in helping get the nation through this difficult time.

We are now in different times, but face challenges of a different nature.

My generation have not experienced war first hand but we now have the challenge of a farming industry about to go through the transition of no longer being a member of the EU to a new era post Brexit. I'm confident resilience is still very much part of the make up of the 21st century

farming industry going forward, but support from the Government will be crucial in helping us through these challenging times. Opportunities will no doubt arise and we at Watson Seeds will continue to be keen to play our part going forward.

Many grass varieties bred by European breeders are ideally suited to our needs and are used in our mixtures. We will continue to work closely and trade with our regular suppliers that will continue in the EU as we exit.

Grass seed supplies are tighter for 2018 due to the wet difficult harvest conditions of 2017 but we have secured excellent stocks of the material we require for the season ahead, albeit at a slightly firmer price. We will endeavour to keep seed prices as close to last year as possible.

My grandfather was dedicated to serving his customers to the best of his ability and we are committed to continuing in his approach of looking after our customers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you our customer for all your support. It is greatly appreciated,

Johnny Watson F.R.Ag. S



Johnny seen here in discussion with Tom Arnott, Haymount Farm, Kelso, the Borders. The Arnott family are much respected breeders of Aberdeen Angus cattle and Texel sheep. Tom's grandfather dealt with Johnny's grandfather!

Photos by Jacqui Wight.

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
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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
Intermediate Perennial				
Boyne	Very good yields under both managements with very good early spring growth. Must be cut early to maintain quality at 1st cut.			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
Rodrigo	Good all round variety, having high total annual yields under conservation management. Excellent spring growth.			B
AstonBonus (T)	Very good yields under both managements. Quality is especially good after second cut.			B
Calibra (T)	Very high D value under grazing management.			C
Dunluce (T)	Combines good yields either cut or grazed with excellent quantity under grazing.			C
Late Perennial				
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
Kintyre (T)	Very good variety under both managements with excellent seasonal growth.			C
Twymax (T)	Has a very dense sward for a tetraploid. Produces excellent quality first and second cut silages.			B
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
S14	7+					14

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	
Violin	
Alice	Large

SALTIRE PERMANENT CLOVER BLEND (SPCB)

Varieties	Leaf type
AberPearl	Small
Crusader	Medium
Merwi	
Violin	

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 – 57%.

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 – 81%.

SALTIRE 3

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

Variety	Type	%
Premium	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	58.21
Rodrigo		
Calibra (T)		
Dunluce (T)		
Pastour	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	%
Boyne	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	56.06
Bree		
Calibra (T)		
Dunluce (T)		
Pastour	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
Premium		
Dunluce (T)		
Pastour	Late Perennial Ryegrass	51.43
Kintyre (T)		
Twymax (T)		
Comer	Timothy	11.79
S RCB	White Clover	5.0

Tetraploid variety (T) content – 40%.

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
Premium		
Calibra (T)		
Dunluce (T)		
Pastour	Late Perennial Ryegrass	41.06
Twymax (T)		
Comer	Timothy	12.14
S RCB	White Clover	5.72

Tetraploid variety (T) content – 41%.

'We use the Saltire 6 mixture from Watson Seeds for silage and hay. We are always very happy with its performance.'

Graham Souter, Messrs JC & CB Souter, Grosefield, Brechin, Angus.



SALTIRE 7

Excellent grazing mixture for long term performance

Variety	Type	%
Bree	Intermediate	25.0
Calibra (T)	Perennial Ryegrass	
Pastour	Late Perennial Ryegrass	55.72
Mezquita		
Kintyre (T)		
Twymax (T)		
Comer	Timothy	12.14
S RCB	White Clover	7.14

Tetraploid variety (T) content – 39%.

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	%
Boyne	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	39.29
Bree		
Calibra (T)		
Dunluce (T)		
Pastour	Late Perennial Ryegrass	42.85
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
Boyne	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	36.68
Bree		
Calibra (T)		
Dunluce (T)		
Pastour	Late Perennial Ryegrass	26.65
Twymax (T)		
Comer	Timothy	10.0
Diceros	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	%
Boyne	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	40.01
Bree		
Calibra (T)		
Dunluce (T)		
Pastour	Late Perennial Ryegrass	26.66
Twymax (T)		
Comer	Timothy	10.0
Diceros	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
Mezquita	Late Perennial Ryegrass	86.67
Pastour		
Kintyre (T)		
Twymax (T)		

Tetraploid variety (T) content – 40%.

SALTIRE 12

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

Variety	Type	%
Calibra (T)	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	50.0
AstonBonus (T)		
Kintyre (T)	Late Perennial Ryegrass	50.0
Twymax (T)		

Tetraploid variety (T) content – 100%.

Also available with clover



Clonhie Farm, Penpont, Dumfries & Galloway is run by Andrew and Aileen Marchant. It is the second of nine new Monitor Farms being established in Scotland as part of a joint initiative by Quality Meat Scotland and AHDB Cereal & Oilseeds. Clonhie Farm is 300 Ha with 40 Ha of good hill rising to around 800ft and 260 Ha of upland grassland. The stock numbers on Clonhie have increased significantly since the Marchants took over and the farm now has 900 breeding ewes and 230 lambs with a target to achieve 1200 ewes by 2020.

'Although it is in the fields early days, the development of the sward looks promising. Throughout next year its performance will be measured using a plate meter. It will be interesting to compare its performance against an earlier complete reseed.'

Andrew Marchant, Clonhie Farm, Penpont, Dumfries & Galloway

SALTIRE 14

The all diploid composition of this mixture helps in the creation of a dense persistent sward.

Variety	Type	%
Bree	Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass	14.28
Premium		
Mezquita	Late Perennial Ryegrass	79.29
Pastour		
Permanent	White Clover Blend	6.43

'I have been very pleased with the Saltire 14 grass mixture and its performance, in what has been a very wet summer in a difficult field.'

George Haddow, J & F Haddow, Redburn Farm, Torrance, Glasgow.



A CENTURY IN THE SEED TRADE



My grandfather, John Watson, joined the seed trade in 1918 and is pictured here with a group of farmers examining perennial ryegrass plots at Alloway Mill in 1928.

Grass breeding has come a long way since the early work conducted by my grandfather. Not only did he breed grasses but had a particular interest in oats, swedes and potato breeding. The potato variety Home Guard being his greatest success and is still grown to this day. Here is what my grandfather had to say about grass breeding all those years ago.

'Just now our activities are directed towards leafiness plus earliness. Many of the improved strains are too late and under our Scotch system of sowing with oats as a cover crop do not make quick enough for growth. It appears to us that earliness, combined with staying power, is the thing to aim at, for a bite in April is worth ten in July or August.'
John Watson 1937

The principles of good grass breeding have never really changed but advances in harvesting technology provide the current plant breeders with highly detailed information that my grandfather could only have dreamt of in his pursuit for better varieties.



Harvesting simulated rotational grazing trials at DSV Waddington with Haldrup F55 Forage Harvester with NIRS Onboard technology.

Seen left, the Haldrup F55 harvester cuts and weighs the fresh weight of grass off each plot. A sample from each plot can be taken in the cab for oven drying and subsequent quality analysis in the laboratory.

A proportion of the grass passes through a chopper and is then pushed past a screen where a NIR spectrometer analyses the grass for dry matter content, and various quality components – protein, WSC, crude fibre, NDF, ADF and digestibility.

The dry matter determination is as accurate as oven drying.

'The calibration for the quality components is still developing but we are quite confident we can now put varieties in the right order for WSC content, NDF, ADF and digestibility - which is very helpful in the breeding programme.'

Tim Ball
UK grass breeder, DSV United Kingdom Ltd

WORLD ANGUS FORUM 2017



The Playfair-Hannay family, Morebattle Tofts, hosted the delegates as they arrived over the border into Scotland.

We were delighted to sponsor and support the Aberdeen Angus World Forum in 2017. Here is a selection of some of our customers that were hosting the delegates from all over the world. Our mixtures were much admired by Angus breeders from Oklahoma to Romania!

'As Chairman of the 2017 World Angus Forum which took place here in the UK and Ireland, I'd like to say how delighted we were to have Watson Seeds on board as one of our sponsors. We extend our gratitude to them for their valued support which helped make this momentous event the success that it was.'

Alex Sanger
President of The Aberdeen Angus Cattle Society.



The farm tour of the renowned Haymount herd, Kelso, Scottish Borders - courtesy of the Arnott family. Haymount Worldsmith is pictured here with some of the Haymount females.



Alex Sanger (left) enjoying a glass of our 'Afore Ye Sow' whisky at Wedderlie with Marion Tilson and Johnny.



The very impressive senior stock bull, Tonley Ramires, who was on show at Glenberrie Home Farm, Drumlithie, Stonehaven when visiting John Lohoar and his team.



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