

Top 10 tips for lucerne profitability

- 1 Select a variety suited to UK conditions
- 2 Monitor pests and diseases and take prompt action to control
- 3 Fertilise to replace nutrient off take
- 4 Allow plants to flower once a year; this ensures storage of nutrients in the tap root to improve winter hardiness and boost spring growth
- 5 Allow a minimum of 4-5 weeks between cuts
- 6 Cut when 10% of flowers are showing (early bud stage)
- 7 Aim for an optimum cutting height of 7cm and never cut below 5cm
- 8 Avoid late cuts, particularly in wet years and when early autumn frosts are a threat
- 9 Manage to avoid soil capping and do not allow grazing livestock to poach and damage the crown
- 10 Do not drive over the crop in wet conditions

With good establishment and subsequent management, lucerne should persist for 4 – 6 years.

Slurry should not be applied to lucerne in the seeding year as young plants are very vulnerable to mechanical damage.

Spring sown lucerne should produce a light cut by mid-August whilst crops sown in the summer will produce their first cut by the following June.

Nitrogen is not required once rhizobial fixation has been established.

Lucerne

Varieties selected for UK conditions

TIMBALE

- Excellent nutritional value (thin stemmed with good leaf retention)
- Good nematode and disease resistance
- High yielding

GALAXIE

- Exceptional yields
- Good nematode and disease resistance

GALAXIE MAX

- A blend of Timbale and Galaxie
- Two of the leading lucerne varieties with cold tolerance for northern European climates

Pre-inoculated and treated seed

Timbale, Galaxie and Galaxie Max from Germinal are pre-inoculated and treated with SAS Gold:

- Unique Seed Applied Solution (SAS Gold) to improve lucerne establishment
- Multi-layered permeable coating with 100% active ingredients
- Essential minerals and trace elements specific to lucerne requirements
- Stimulates early vigour and improves root and leaf development

Optimum seed rate

- Timbale, Galaxie and Galaxie Max are sold in Precidose packs
- Precidose (units of 4.5 million seeds) ensures optimum plant population and prevents problems due to over or under seeding
- Easy to use; 2 Precidose packs per hectare in good conditions
- Increase to 2.3 packs/ha for later sowing or heavier conditions

Proven performance

In trials, SAS Gold treated seed drilled at Precidose rates achieved:

- **14% INCREASE IN PLANT ESTABLISHMENT**
- **6% INCREASE IN FIRST CUT DRY MATTER YIELDS**



Improved development of roots and foliage is seen in the lucerne seedlings on the right as a result of SAS Gold seed treatment