

SW

Grass buffer strips

Overview

SW grass buffer strips are ideal for areas at high risk of runoff by establishing and managing grass strips to protect soil and water.

They are eligible for payments under the Countryside Stewardship Mid and Higher Tier agreements: SW1 - £451p/ha; SW3 - £658 p/ha; SW4 - £612 p/ha

SW grass buffer mix in detail

A mixture of grasses providing a natural habitat for insects, including pollinators, and capable of reducing the risks from surface runoff water.

How to sow AB1 Nectar flower mix successfully

- Remove any subsoil compaction where seedbed preparation is required
- Sow at a seed rate of 20kg/ha
- Control weeds and cut regularly in the first 12-24 months of establishment

Example AB1 Nectar flower mix

- AberNiche Festulolium
- Timothy
- Smooth-stalked Meadow Grass
- Meadow
- Fescue
- Creeping Bent
- Cocksfoot



Available in 5, 10 and 25kg bags.
Germinal seed

SW1:

4m to 6m buffer strip on cultivated land:

to provide a new habitat next to existing features and/or prevent pollutant/sediment runoff when situated near a watercourse

Requirements

- Establish or maintain a 4 to 6m wide grass buffer strip during the first 12 months
- Once established, cut between 1 and 3m of the strip next to the crop edge every year after 15th July

SW4:

12m to 24m watercourse buffer strip on cultivated land:

to reduce the risk of pollutants, sediments, nutrients and pesticides being transported into watercourses

Requirements

- Establish or maintain a 12 to 24m wide grass buffer strip during the first 12 months
- Once established, cut 6m next to the crop edge every year after 15th July

Find out more:

[Higher Tier Manual](#)

[Mid-Tier Manual](#)

SW3:

In-field grass strips:

ideally positioned on natural drainage pathways or parallel to the slope on long, sloping fields to reduce the quantity of sediment, nutrients and pesticides moving within and between fields

Requirements

- Establish or maintain a dense grassy area during the first 12 months
- Once established, cut the entire area every year after 15th July

Common requirements to SW1, SW3 and SW4

- Do not apply fertilisers or manures
- Do not use pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat injurious weeds, invasive non-native species, nettles or bracken
- Do not use for animal or vehicle access
- Exclude all livestock from the strip (SW3, SW4)
- Keep records of all field operations including associated invoices

Disclaimer:

Information correct at the time of going to press.

Farmers and growers should ensure the mixture formulation meets the criteria of their agreement before sowing