

REAP Specifications (April 2021)

Specification to Qualify for Late Meadow Bonus Payment in Low-Input Grassland

1. Meadows must be closed-up with no grazing or machinery operations to take place for at least 6 weeks prior to cutting.
2. The earliest date meadows may be cut for hay/silage is July 1st (but may be cut up to the end of August).
3. Geo-tagged photograph(s), giving a clear representation of the mown meadow, must be submitted to DAFM on date of mowing or within 5 days after mowing activity (but must be prior to significant grass re-growth).

Specification for Managed Field margins in Low-Input Grassland and Multi-Species Leys

1. Where selected the fenced field margin must be established by July 15th 2021 (LIG), 15th August (MSL), and prior to advisor field assessment (whichever is sooner) by fencing off either a 1/2/3/5m margin (5m margin (s) are available for multi species leys only).
2. Fence must be appropriate to exclude livestock. Margin may be placed either all round the full field perimeter or you may choose one or more end/side(s) of a field (in either case field margins must be established along full boundary lengths).
3. If you select to put a margin next to a watercourse or drainage ditch, you will be awarded extra marks (margin must be added to any existing Nitrates buffer requirements).
4. The margin must be managed by either mowing/flailing or mulching at least once per year. This management can only take place between the 1st of September and the 28th of February. It is recommended to remove cuttings.
5. Fertiliser/lime must not be spread on the margin. Pesticides are not permitted, other than for the spot treatment of noxious/invasive weeds.

Notes:

The Width of a watercourse margin is measured from the top of the watercourse bank. (For farmers with a grassland stocking rate > 170kg organic N /ha, the watercourse margin for the project is measured after the 1.5m distance required by Nitrates Regulations SI 605 of 2017 (as amended)).

The Width of a field margin next to a hedgerow is measured from the edge of the base canopy. The base canopy is the lowest leafy growth coming from the **structural woody plants** in the hedge.

If the field forms part of a Natura 2000 site, permanent fencing of margins is not permitted without prior permission from DAFM.

Specifications for Complementary actions

Only permitted in project fields (subject to scorecard assessments) **Actions not permitted in Natura 2000 sites, Nature Reserves, pNHAs, landscapes targeted for breeding waders such as curlew, or on an archaeological monument.**

1. Planting a New Hedgerow/Hedgerow Gapping Up

Requirements

Prepare the ground along a 1.5m wide strip to provide good soil conditions and as little competition from other vegetation as possible

1. Between November and March plant a double staggered row with 6 plants (2 yr old whips) per metre using a mix of 6 species from the Approved species list below. (No one species should make up more than 70% of the total).
2. Identify 1 plant every 50m to be retained as a tree.
3. Ensure the hedgerow is protected from livestock using an appropriate fence at least 1m out from the new hedgerow. This fence will need to be moved out further as the hedge grows and expands.
4. Plants must be of Native Provenance and purchased from registered producers or growers.
5. Keep free of weeds until plants have established - annual weed maintenance is required until the hedgerow is fully established. Failed or dead plants to be replaced in the following planting season.

Approved Species List
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>)• Dog Rose (<i>Rosa canina</i>)• Guelder Rose (<i>Viburnum opulus</i>)• Hawthorn/Whitethorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)• Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>)• Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>)• Spindle (<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>)• Bird Cherry (<i>Prunus padus</i>)• Crab Apple (<i>Malus sylvestris</i>)

2. Planting Trees

1. Between November and March, plant trees of native provenance from the list below. These should be at least 1.5 metres tall.
2. Maintain a 3m distance between each tree planted.
3. Stake and tie each tree securely, using material appropriate to the size and species of tree and by using flexible rubber and adjustable tree ties.
4. Protect trees from livestock damage by appropriate fencing.
5. Control grass/other weeds annually until the trees have become established and replace any planted trees that die in the following planting season.

Do not:

- Fasten guards to the tree itself or allow guards to cause damage to the growing tree.
- Plant trees beneath or near overhead power lines, or other overhead and underground services.

Approved Species List
Alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>)
Silver birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>), Downy birch (<i>Betula pubescens</i>)
Sessile oak (<i>Quercus petraea</i>), Pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)
Mountain ash (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>)
Whitebeam (<i>Sorbus aria</i>)
Wild Cherry (<i>Prunus avium</i>)
Goat willow (<i>Salix caprea</i>), Rusty willow (<i>Salix cinerea</i> subsp. <i>oleifolia</i>), Eared willow (<i>Salix aurita</i>) and White willow (<i>Salix alba</i>)
Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>)
Scots pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>)
Bird Cherry (<i>Prunus padus</i>)
Hawthorn/Whitethorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)
Any fruit tree of Native Provenance