

OSR COMPANION CROPS

Companion crops aid the establishment of oilseed rape crops by protecting against flea beetle, improving soil condition and reducing weed pressure.

Success with companion cropping led to over 5% of the UK oilseed rape area being drilled with a companion crop in 2021, and on a trajectory to be over 10% by 2023. Europe is already far in excess of these percentages including in France, where over 50% of the area is drilled with a companion crop.

Using suitable varieties is fundamental to effective use. The EnviroSeeds® companion crop range has been developed over five years, to contain only varieties rigorously tested and proven on farm. These provide truly unique and peerless products for effective companion cropping.



SHIELDER

The complete companion crop - tried, tested and recommended by us. Provides the ultimate protection from flea beetle with **'LIFAGO'** buckwheat's protective canopy and fenugreek's deterring odour, combined with nitrogen-fixing, fast-growing **'TABOR'** berseem clover.

- **'LIFAGO'** buckwheat provides a protective canopy to disguise the oilseed rape plants from flea beetle
- Fenugreek exudes an unpleasant odour to deter flea beetle from the oilseed rape crop
- **'TABOR'** berseem clover grows rapidly to fix nitrogen and condition soil for the oilseed rape plants

Contains:
50% 'LIFAGO' Buckwheat
25% Fenugreek
25% TABOR Berseem Clover

Sowing Rate:
10kg/ha

Sowing Depth:
1cm



BEETLE BLASTER

Beetle Blaster provides essential protection against flea beetle. **'LIFAGO'** buckwheat produces a large canopy to disguise the oilseed rape plants and fenugreek produces a deterring odour.

- **'LIFAGO'** buckwheat provides a protective canopy to disguise the oilseed rape plants from flea beetle
- Fenugreek exudes an unpleasant odour to deter flea beetle from the oilseed rape crop

Contains:
70% 'LIFAGO' Buckwheat
30% Fenugreek

Sowing Rate:
10kg/ha

Sowing Depth:
1cm



FIX AND PROTECT

Fix and Protect combines a dense, protective canopy provided by **'LIFAGO'** buckwheat, with rapid nitrogen-fixing and soil conditioning from **'TABOR'** berseem clover.

- **'LIFAGO'** buckwheat provides a protective canopy to disguise the oilseed rape plants from flea beetle
- **'TABOR'** berseem clover grows rapidly to fix nitrogen and condition soil for the oilseed rape plants

Contains:
60% 'LIFAGO' Buckwheat
40% 'TABOR' Berseem Clover

Sowing Rate:
10kg/ha

Sowing Depth:
1cm

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BERSEEM CLOVER (*Trifolium alexandrinum*) - 'TABOR'

'**TABOR**' is the only proven 'single-cut' variety of berseem clover available in the UK. 'Single-cut' varieties do not regrow following winter-kill and are therefore the only varieties suitable for use as an oilseed rape companion crop.

- Deep taproots condition the soil for healthy root development
- Flowers attract many beneficial insects and pollinators
- Rapid growth and establishment suppresses weeds
- Extremely susceptible to frost
- '**TABOR**' can fix nitrogen from as little as eight weeks from sowing

Sowing Rate: **10kg/ha**
Sowing Depth: **1cm**



BUCKWHEAT (*Fagopyrum tataricum*) - 'LIFAGO'

'**LIFAGO**' buckwheat's vigorous growth provides the essential protective canopy from flea beetle quicker than standard buckwheat ('*Fagopyrum esculentum*') varieties. A lower thousand grain weight also provides a higher plant population from the comparable sowing rate.

- Provides a dense, protective canopy to disguise the oilseed rape plants
- Grows vigorously to suppress weeds
- Extremely susceptible to frost
- Scavenges phosphates from the soil
- Nectar-rich flowers provide food for pollinators

Sowing Rate: **10kg/ha**
Sowing Depth: **1cm**



FENUGREEK (*Trigonella foenum-graecum*)

Fenugreek provides an additional layer of protection for the oilseed rape crop by exuding an unpleasant odour to deter flea beetle. Fenugreek is most suited to being utilised in a mixture such as Shielder or Beetle Blaster (see page 10).

- Natural odour deters flea beetle from the oilseed rape crop
- Stands later into the autumn than '**LIFAGO**' buckwheat and '**TABOR**' berseem clover
- Best used in conjunction with other species

Sowing Rate: **10kg/ha**
Sowing Depth: **1cm**



PURPLE VETCH (*Vicia atropurpurea*) - 'BINGO'

'**BINGO**' purple vetch grows more vigorously and is more susceptible to frost than common vetch (*Vicia sativa*), and therefore suitable for use in oilseed rape companion crops. A lower thousand grain weight also provides a higher plant population from the comparable sowing rate.

- Rapid growth and establishment suppresses weeds
- Conditions soil and fixes nitrogen
- Very susceptible to frost
- Best used in conjunction with other species or mixes

Sowing Rate: **10kg/ha**
Sowing Depth: **1cm**