

Fertiliser Adviser for Catch Crops and Short Term Grass Crops for Grazing in Situ or Cutting

1. For a catch crop such as fodder rape farmers are allowed to apply the full rate in the nutrient regulations. Crops that are sown before 15th August follow agronomic advice outlined in table 1 below.

2. Catch Crops (Fodder Rape)

Fodder Rape sown after a tillage crop but before 15th August will be controlled under the full allowances as per the nitrates directive. Crops sown after the 15th August adjust fertiliser rates based on crop yield potential. N-P-K advice for fodder rape is shown in table 1 (Green Book, 2016). Where a previous crop has received build-up rates of P and K therefore only apply P and K advice as per index 3 (tables 1). For crops sown after the 15th August apply 60% of crop N, P, K advice as per table 1 below.

Table 1:- N, P & K advice for Fodder Rape (kg/ha)			
Soil Index	N	P	K
1	130	40	100
2	120	30	75
3	110	20	50
4	90	0	0

Example:- Where a crop of spring barley was sown on a P & K index 1 field and received the recommended levels of P and K at sowing time (45kg P/ha & 135kg K/ha). A crop of fodder rape follows sown on the 14th August it is recommended to apply 130kg N/ha, 20kg P/ha & 50kg K/ha. Where the crop is sown after the 15th August apply 78kgN/ha, 12kg P/ha & 30kgK/ha (60% of recommended).

Supplying nutrients in slurry

Cattle / Pig slurry can be used to supply N, P & K for fodder rape. For example pig slurry would be the slurry of choice as its contains 3 times more N than cattle slurry. For example 1,000gallons of pig slurry contains an equivalent 50kg bag of 19-7-20. An application of 2 to 3 thousand gallons of pig slurry per acre will meet the nutrient requirements of a crop sown after the 15th August.

Note: - Adjust soil N index for the following cereal crop (2019) to soil N index 2 as there will be a good residue of soil N remaining where fodder crops are grazed in situ.

3. Mixed or other catch crops including GLAS Catch Crops

Catch Crop Non Graze (Incl GLAS)

- Where it is not intended to graze or remove the cover crop **no fertiliser is recommended** as the purpose of the crop is to remove available nutrient from the soil.
- Catch Crop for grazing or harvest sown before 15th August requires fertiliser. Nutrient allowances agreed as per the Glas scheme are shown in table 2 below (N-P-K is to replace nutrient off takes).

Crop	N	P	K
Catch Crop Grazed sown Pre 15 th August	50	12	25
Catch Crop Grazed sown Post 15 th August	25	6	12

Note – The earlier the crop is sown the better the capacity to utilise nutrients.

Catch Crop for grazing or harvest sown after 15th August

- As the sowing date moves to the end of August the capacity of the catch crop to use added fertiliser reduces and application should be reduced accordingly.
- Crops sown after 31st August have little or no capacity to use additional fertiliser.

4. Italian Ryegrass/Westerwolds

For Italian Ryegrass/Westerwolds where a cut of silage is taken **following a tillage crop and prior to sowing the following tillage crop** i.e. cut in the autumn and cut again the following spring (Use Crop Italian Ryegrass / Westerwolds in NMP-Online). The following tillage crop would be allowed 100% of the available N & P allowances. No P & K build-up is required as it is assumed to be applied to the previous crop.

- The NMP System will have a new crop type for the Italian Ryegrass/Westerwolds.
- The Italian Rye Grass/Westerwolds fertiliser requirements will be 60% of 1st cut grass silage requirements.
- See table 3 for nutrient allowances based on 3t DM/ha

Crop	N	P	K
Grass	75	12	110