

Oilseed Rape – your break crop

Winter oilseed rape (WOSR) is a crop in recent years which has quietly undergone massive genetic progress and has increased the reliability in the annual performance of the crop. Here is a quick synopsis of the main agronomic traits that winter oilseed rape have been working on

POD Shatter Resistance (POSH)

Pod shatter is a natural process which enables seed dispersion. In commercial winter oilseed rape pod shatter can cause serious yield loss. The pod shatter resistance which was taken from redish species and added to WOSR has made such varieties more resilient under conditions of repeated wetting and drying. It is important for growers to choose a pod shatter resistant variety.

Turnip Yellow Virus (TUYU)

TUYU is a virus spread by the peach potato aphid. Infection can occur in the Autumn or Spring. It is difficult to control with aphicides. This virus can cause up to 30% yield loss. TUYU is available in many commercial varieties.

RLMF Phoma Resistance

Phoma or Sten Canker can be a very damaging disease in WOSR. RLMF is a specific gene which confers a very high degree of resistance to Phoma/Stem Canker and acts as a very strong back up to fungicidal treatments.

Clearfield (CL)

Clearfield WOSR have been specifically bred to be resistant to the BASF herbicide Clearanda. This gives growers a very useful method to control weeds such as charlock, runch and hedge mustard. These would normally be impossible to control in a non Clearfield WOSR.

N-Flex

N-Flex is a trait developed and used by Limagrain which increase the nitrogen use efficiency of WOSR varieties.

Varieties Available from Quinns for 2026 Harvest

LG Armada – solid yield performance had pod shatter resistance and TUYU resistance. This brand is also excellent disease and lodging resistance.

LG Avenger – excellent autumn vigour pod shatter and TUYU resistance

LG Auckland – proven variety, pod shatter and TUYU resistance

Aurelia – well proven variety, early vigour, good lodging resistance, pod shatter and TUYU resistance

Aviron – high yielding, pod shatter resistance, TUYU resistance, late to flower

Adapt – high yielding variety from the UK. Pod shatter resistance. Good resistance to stem based diseases

Dart and **Murray** oilseed rape seed also available

Clearfield oilseed rape seed varieties available are **Imprint CL**, **Calvin CL** and **Beatrix CL**. There is very a limited supply of these varieties.





Meeting Replacement Requirements

Age is believed to be the determining factor of when puberty occurs but it is actually the heifer's weight. Making sure that your replacement heifers are achieving target weights in the first season is of utmost importance.

Failure in having heifers reach the target weights results in:

- Reduced milk yield over lifetime
- Lowered longevity
- High replacement rate

In August a heifer should be 30% of her total mature bodyweight. Weighing calves regularly will allow you to pick out under performing calves and calves on target for weight at breeding at 15 months. **Each additional month over 24 month calving date is costing farmer's €50/animal/month (excluding volatile input costs).**

Targeting appropriate weight gain over the first 12 months will be essential for overall weight gain and meeting breeding targets. Calves at grass will now require supplementation to reach target weights as well as optimise rumen health and function on grass.

Quinns have our **Elite Grazer Pellet** to help with calves looking to achieve high growth rate on grass whilst also maintaining optimum rumen function and feed conversion efficiency. It is a 16% crude protein pellet formulated with the highest quality of ingredients with energy derived from maize and barley, high levels of digestible fibre and quality protein supplementation to complement summer grasses. It has an extremely well balanced mineral package through Quinns Beef and Rumigain which contains YeaSacc, Protected Copper and Zinc as well as Diamond V technology to help combat lush, high nitrogen and low fibre grasses.

As you move into the winter supplementation to achieve higher growth rates targets will require a higher protein feed.

Our **Supreme Heifer Rearer** is a product available in coarse ration and pellet which is complementary to high quality forage. **Supreme Heifer Rearer CR** will achieve target growth rates through the high energy dense ingredients and high level of rumen bypass protein. It also contains Quinns Beef and Rumigain mineral aimed to promote growth and thrive in young heifers. A feeding rate of 2-3kgs with quality forage will achieve 0.7kg+ ADG over the housed period.

Feeding adequate forage with supplementation over the first winter will be essential to achieving the target 0.6-0.7kg ADG.

Contact your local Quinns Agri Representative or branch for more information

| Age | Month | % Mature Weight | Maint SI 5 616kg | Maint SI 10 591kg | Maint SI 20 541kg |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Birth | February | - | 42 | 38 | 34 |
| 3 months | May | - | 123 | 118 | 108 |
| 6 months | August | 30% | 164 | 177 | 162 |
| 9 months | November | - | 246 | 236 | 216 |
| 12 months | February | - | 308 | 295 | 270 |
| 15 months | May | 60% | 370 | 355 | 325 |
| 19 months | September | - | 452 | 433 | 397 |
| 21 months | November | - | 493 | 473 | 433 |
| 24 months (pre-calving) | February | 90% | 554 | 532 | 487 |

Autumn Grassland Herbicide options to consider!

DB Plus, which you will have known as Underclear is now back on the market having received emergency approval from the Dept of Agriculture.

You may wonder why it has received approval considering **Pro-Clova XL** is now available but the label of **DB Plus** clearly states that its use is for red clover swards only. This means that it has approval for use in newly sown grass swards that contains red clover.

DB Plus comes in a 10 litre drum and will cover 1.43 ha (3.53 acres) at a rate of 7 litres per hectare. **This approval is until the 30th of September and Quinn's have received a good supply so it is important you contact us to secure your order.**

Some other **Clover-safe** Products that are well-known are **Eagle and Pro-Clova**. Eagle can be applied to established grassland, including swards with white clover. Apply in the spring/early summer or in the autumn when the grass and docks are actively growing, and good growing conditions are expected to last for at least two weeks after spraying. **Eagle** can have good control on docks, cleavers and shepherds purse.

Last year a new clover-safe herbicide called **Pro-Clova XL** that kills key weeds in newly sown leys and established grassland was brought to the market by Corteva.

Each **ProClova XL** co-pack treats 3 hectares (7.4 acres) of newly

sown leys or 2 hectares (5 acres) when applying to established grassland. This product can only be applied to red-clover swards after it has reached the 3-trifoliate leaf stage, **in the spring of the year after planting**. It is safe to use on white clover swards in same year of planting once the clover has reached the 3- trifoliate stage before application.

Non-clover safe options

When it comes to dock control in grassland and silage ground there are several options to choose from such as **Envy, Pastor Trio, Doxstar, Starane/Reaper/Echo Pro**.

Forefront T is still very much the popular option for a wide range of weeds including Docks, Thistles, Nettles, Chickweed, Buttercups, Ragwort, Dandelions etc however it is not advised for use on silage/ hay ground (Speak to your local rep for more information on this).

Reseeds that contain no clover or have a heavy weed infestation can be sprayed with **Envy** or **Pastor Trio** and it's important to note that these are **not** clover safe products. If there are thistles present in your reseed then **Pastor Trio** is the best option.

It is important to talk with our technical advisors to ensure you are selecting the correct product on your swards and are giving clover the best chance on your farm.

Why choose Forage crops this year?

Implementing a forage crop onto your farm could be a great opportunity to avail of high, nutrient dense feedstuff with lower costs. Forage crops may be either leafy or with bulbs with some forage crops having regenerative ability for multiple grazing's.

There are many advantages of growing forage crops such as:

- Filling the forage gap in the autumn and winter months when grass growth slows down.
- High yielding quality forage for overwintering stock on.
- These crops offer a low cost solution to rationing livestock throughout the winter period, while reducing the pressure on housing and labour costs.
- An excellent break crop for grassland renewal.
- Can be grazed in situ which will increase organic matter and return of the grazed nutrients to the soil.

Most forage crops are high in crude protein content and high in energy density perfect for growing animals. Its rapid growth habits also make it a suitable choice for finishing lambs.

Earlier the Sowing date the better and a day in July is worth a week in August and a month in September when it comes to grazing value.

| Crop | Sowing | Grazing |
|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Kale | April – June | October-March |
| Rape and Hybrids (redstart) | May- August | October – December |
| Swedes | April – June | October – March |
| Stubble Turnips | April- August | September – February |

It's important to note that brassicas are lower in minerals such as copper, iodine and selenium so offering supplementary mineral sources alongside dietary fibre will ensure proper thrive and healthy rumination. A gradual introduction onto forage crops is advised due the high digestibility properties.

For more information please contact your local branch or agri-representative.

Picking your Forage Crops for this Winter

Soil nutrients are so valuable to Irish farmers, therefore we must try our best to utilise every bit we have, both organically and inorganically.

Choosing to grow cover crops over the winter period will prevent Nitrogen leaching by acting as a soil 'sink'. Agricultural soil management is responsible for ~80% of global annual nitrous oxide emissions. Going forward, cover cropping is going to play a major role in helping to reduce this statistic in order to be more sustainable.

When there is no actively growing crop or nutrient demand in the soil – Nitrogen and other nutrients will be leached, therefore we should aim to keep a crop in the soil at all times. All cover crop species reduce N leaching; however cereals such as rye and oats are most effective as their roots remain actively growing during cold weather which is useful for N capture.

Benefits of some Cover Crop Species

Buckwheat

- Rapid establishment and ground cover
- Weed suppressor – highly competitive
- Soil conditioner – abundant, fibrous roots leave soil friable and loose
- Does not impact crop rotation - different plant family to cereal, legume and brassica

Phacelia

- Effective weed suppression due to rapid growth
- Noticeable enhancement in soil friability following incorporation
- Excellent food source for native pollinators
- Fast decomposition
- Protects soil from compaction due to vigorous growth
- Increased water retention

Legumes

- Crimson/berseem clover, peas, beans, vetches commonly used species

- Ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen and increase nutrient content of the soil
- Increase organic matter levels when decomposed
- Roots improve soils ability to absorb and hold moisture
- Clovers can produce up to 140 units of N above ground, with 50% of this becoming available to the following crop
- Improves soil tilth drastically

Brassicas

- Fodder rape, tillage radish, kale, leafy turnip all common options
- Excellent ground cover
- Allows water to infiltrate slowly
- Large tillage radish taproot excellent for improving soil structure and reducing compaction
- Differing root structures aid soil conditioning

Cereals

- Oats and Rye most common
- N scavenging species
- A good option for later sowing times
- Cost effective
- Vigorous rye rooting aids with soil structure and water infiltration

At Quinns we also have many mixes to suit ACRES schemes which are listed below. Please contact any of our Agri Sales Representatives or local branches to get more info on our mixes and catch crops for the 2025/2026 season.

| Cover Crop Mixes | Specification |
|--|---|
| Quinns Acres Grazer 16kg 2Hact Pack | 8kg Leafy Turnip and 8kg Forage Rape |
| Quinns OSR Friendly Soil 18.2kg 1Hact Pack | 12kg Vetch, 3.2kg Phacelia and 3kg Crimson Clover |
| Quinns Tillage Soil Enhancer 12.3kg 1Hact Pack | 4.5kg White Mustard, 3.8kg Berseem Clover, 2kg Tillage Radish and 2kg Forage Rape |

Harvest 2025



Financial Year End Draw Winners 2025

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------|
| John Joe Hanlon | Daingean, Co Offaly | €400 |
| Melissa Vaughan | Blessington, Co Wicklow | €200 |
| Declan Keegan, | Nurney, Co Kildare | €200 |
| Mark Young | Nurney, Co Carlow | €100 |
| P and R Evans | Edenderry, Co. Offaly | €100 |

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on Sunday 10th August**

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