

Grass and White Clover Varieties



Liosta Molta na hÉireann 2026 Irish Recommended List 2026

CROP POLICY, EVALUATION AND CERTIFICATION DIVISION



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

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Notice to Publishers

The variety data presented may not be published unless the source is clearly acknowledged as the 'Grass and White Clover Recommended List Varieties for Ireland 2026' publication produced by Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

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Introduction

Perennial ryegrass, hybrid ryegrass and White clover account for nearly all of the agricultural grass/clover seed sold in Ireland. Of these, perennial ryegrass is by far the most important. Other species of grass and clover are not commonly used. Individual varieties differ in performance characteristics depending on maturity group and ploidy. These differences may be further exaggerated by factors such as climate, soil type and system of farming. Increased demands on grassland with regard to early spring grass, mid-season production, extended grazing in the autumn etc., mean that care needs to be taken in the selection of suitable grass seed mixtures. All grass and clover varieties listed in this booklet have a proven record of performance over a period of years at a number of different locations and are deemed most suitable for Irish conditions.

Growers should give preference to the Recommended List varieties unless there is strong evidence that some other variety is more suited to their conditions.

Variety Maturity Groupings

Perennial Ryegrass: - This grass species accounts for approximately 95% of forage grass seed sold in Ireland. Perennial ryegrass is grouped into three maturity groups (**early**, **intermediate** and **late**) on the basis of heading date (ear emergence).

Early varieties: - Head in the first half of May. Early perennials provide very good yields of early spring grazing and first cut silage. Stemmy regrowths in early summer can be a problem where long periods of uninterrupted growth are allowed to occur without grazing or cutting. In recent years, use of this group has declined in Ireland and sales are at a very low level and in this year's Recommended List there are no early varieties listed.

Intermediate varieties: - Head in the second half of May and are ideal for producing high quality silage cuts in late May and mid-July. Although not bulking up as soon as early perennial varieties, overall silage yields are as good. Varieties from this group are suited to a broad range of management systems and should be included in any seed mixture. In recent years spring growth has improved and they have better ground cover than the early varieties.

Late varieties: - Head in the first half of June and tend towards a prostrate growth habit. They are characterised by high tiller densities, exhibit good ground cover and are well suited to long term grazing pastures. Late varieties produce good quality silage cuts in early June and late July, are leafy in mid-summer and have good autumn growth. Generally, their spring growth is not as good as for 'Intermediates'. Under good grazing management, late perennials are very persistent and can survive very well for many years.

Hybrid ryegrass: - These varieties represent the product of a cross between Italian and Perennial ryegrass types. In appearance they generally reflect one or other parental type. The Hybrid ryegrass varieties tend to yield higher than the Intermediate and Late groups of Perennial ryegrasses, but lower than the Italians. Hybrids tend to be more stemmy in summer than the Intermediates and Lates, but less stemmy than the Italians. Hybrid varieties tend to be more suitable for silage production than grazing. The information contained in the Hybrid tables in this publication is taken from two different trial protocols, as there were no dedicated Hybrid trials sown after 2010 and Hybrid varieties were included in Intermediate PRG trials and compared to the Intermediate PRG control varieties. Therefore, information in these two different trials is not directly comparable.

White clovers: - Are included as a component in most grass seed mixtures for their nutritive value and their nitrogen fixing abilities. They are classified according to leaf size into very large, large, medium and small leaved types. Very large and large leaved varieties are relatively tolerant to nitrogen fertiliser usage and compete well with companion grasses, making them suitable for silage production. Medium leaved varieties are more suited to grazing but can also be used in silage mixes. Small leaved varieties are more suitable for grazing.

Ploidy

Recently **diploid** varieties have tended to dominate mixtures in Ireland, but **tetraploid** varieties are an important component of grass seed mixtures. Compared to diploids they generally have higher quality, are more palatable to livestock (higher intake) and are more tolerant to drought. However, they generally have considerably lower tiller densities resulting in more open swards. Dry matter content also tends to be lower compared with diploids. On heavy soils subject to poaching, persistence may also suffer. Seeding rates for tetraploid grasses will need to be higher because of their larger seed size. In this publication, (T) denotes tetraploid varieties, all other varieties being diploid.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: - The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) has taken all due care in evaluating the performance in Ireland of the listed varieties, for yield, heading date, ground cover and other agronomic characters (for a minimum period of 3 years) over a range of locations, soils and environmental conditions. DAFM cannot, however accept responsibility for any loss or inconvenience arising from any future variation in absolute or relative varietal performance.

Protocol for Recommended List

Trials and trial sites

Varieties are evaluated over a minimum of two separate sowings, with each sowing being harvested for two years after the sowing year. Trials are conducted at Backweston Farm, Leixlip, Co. Kildare (Headquarters); Fermoy, Co. Cork; Raphoe, Co. Donegal; Athenry, Co. Galway, and Piltown, Co. Kilkenny. Trials are grown on good quality mineral soils in a manner conducive to selection of varieties most suited to good commercial farming practices.

Grasses

Perennial ryegrass (Intermediate and Late heading groups) and Hybrid ryegrass trials are sown in April/May and establish during the remainder of that year. The Intermediate and Late trials are then assessed over the following two-year period under two different systems; a 6 cut system and an 8 to 10 cut system, using a trial-plot harvesting machine. Individual trials remain on one system for the two-year period.

The 6 cut system is referred to in this publication as the **General Purpose/2-Cut Silage** system and involves one spring grazing cut, followed by two silage cuts and then three grazing cuts. Results presented in this publication includes data from the 2022 sowing year (two silage cuts in main tables and 'additional cuts' in Appendix 3).

The 8 – 10 cut system is referred to in this publication as the **Simulated Grazing** (frequent cutting) system and involves that number of cuts taken at periods corresponding to normal commercial rotational grazing practice. This system was introduced by DAFM in its 2010 sowings. Its purpose is to provide variety performance data suitable for situations where grass is grazed throughout the growing season. Results from the 2010 to 2022 sowings of this trial are presented in this publication on the Main Tables.

White clover varieties are sown in a mixture with a late perennial ryegrass in May/June and following an establishment year are assessed over the subsequent two years under a 6-7 cut system. White clovers are tested under a low fertiliser nitrogen input regime, where the total yearly application is 90kg Nitrogen per hectare (90kg N/ha) applied in three different applications in the spring. Sheep grazing for one day immediately following cutting was introduced for the 2010 - 2018 sowings across two trial sites but has since discontinued.

Heading date is based on the first heading date in spring. It is determined by examination of individual grass plants sown in the previous summer/autumn. It is carried out in dedicated trials over a number of years at different sites. Heading date indicates the earliness or lateness of a variety in reaching maturity in spring. Dates listed should be used as a guide only as actual heading date will vary with location, climate and date of the last grazing. Generally, late heading date

varieties have less of a tendency to head in mid-summer than earlier varieties. In rotational grazing systems, varieties having significantly later heading dates are generally less prone to produce seed heads in mid-summer than varieties having earlier heading dates. Mid-summer heading is most likely to occur in cases of drought and/or delayed grazing and causes deterioration in quality at this time. Use of later heading varieties reduces this risk.

Total yield (Simulated Grazing) for each variety can be calculated from the seasonal yields of spring, summer and autumn, which are presented in the main tables. The tables show the average yields in tonnes of dry matter per hectare (t DM/ha) for the control varieties. Annual yield can vary considerably between years and trial sites, due mainly to differences in soil quality and climatic conditions. Where grass is commercially grown on lower quality land, considerably lower annual yields can be expected.

Ground Cover Score data (scale 1 -9) presented in the Main Tables indicates the degree of ground cover or sward density at the end of the second harvest year. It is based on visual assessment. A low figure indicates a very open sward, which may be prone to poaching or trafficability problems. However, since most varieties are sown as a mixture, the degree that this will influence the longevity of the sward can be minimised by including varieties with high ground cover scores.

High Ground Cover scores (at the end of the second harvest year) are generally considered desirable, while low ground cover scores are generally considered a weakness in varieties. The size of those actual ground cover scores is not taken into account in the Pasture Profit Index (PPI) economic values. Instead, the PPI gives economic values relating to **persistence** which is based on each variety's change in ground cover score from the end of harvest year 1 to the end of harvest year 2. More information on how persistence is calculated can be found in Appendix 1 of this publication.

Spring growth production figures are given for all ryegrass varieties. These figures are important indicators of early grass production. Spring growth data is based on the yield of cuts taken before mid-April. (These are cuts 1 and 2 in the Simulated Grazing (frequent cutting) system, depending on earliness of growth). Additional spring growth data for the General Purpose protocol is presented in Appendix 3 of this publication. Spring growth data is influenced by growing conditions during the period from the latest autumn cut in the previous harvest year. Yearly variations in those conditions can be considerable and can significantly influence varietal performance in individual years. Accordingly, particularly for this trait, an accurate assessment of performance requires use of data obtained over several harvest years.

Summer growth figures in the Simulated Grazing (frequent cutting) system indicate production differences between varieties in this period. Summer growth data is based on the combined yield of the cuts taken from mid-April to mid-August.

Autumn growth figures indicate production differences between varieties in this period. Autumn growth data is based on the combined yield of cuts taken from mid-August to late October.

First and Second Cut Silage growth figures in the General Purpose system indicate production differences between varieties when they are grown for this purpose. First Cut Silage is based on approximately six to seven weeks growth after an initial spring growth cut is taken in late March. Second Cut Silage is based on approximately six to seven weeks growth after the harvesting of the First Cut Silage. The figures are expressed on the main tables.

Grass Quality

Dry Matter Digestibility (DMD) is presented as a measure of grass quality. The results (presented on the Main Tables) are based on testing of plot samples from cuts taken during the growing season at one trial site. Forage will provide more energy to the animal if its DMD is high. High DMD forage increases the DM intake of animals where feeding is not restricted. This increase in intake has a big effect on animal performance. Actual DMD levels can vary considerably and are influenced by several factors including growth stage and climate. The economic values and average DMD from April – July are presented in the Main Tables, with the monthly values presented in Appendix 4 of this publication.

DAFM acknowledge the assistance of Teagasc Grange and Teagasc Moorepark in carrying out laboratory analysis of grass samples for quality determinations.

Grazing Utilisation

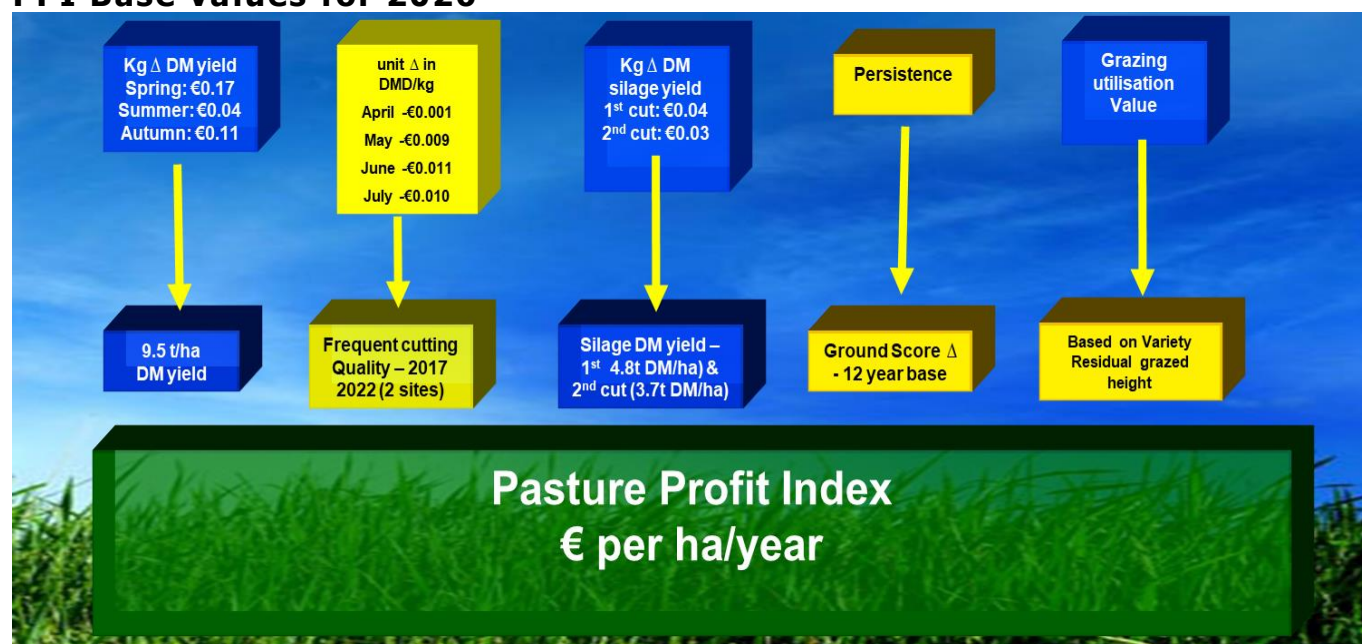
Varieties that display improved ability to be grazed by dairy cows allow for increased utilisation of pasture leading to productivity increases on farms. Variety grazing assessments have been conducted by Teagasc at the Teagasc Moorepark Grassland Research Centre in plot grazing studies since 2017. Variety grazing efficiency differences are expressed as Residual Grazed Height (RGH). RGH for the 2026 Recommended List has been calculated across five summer rotations

Information note in relation to the data presented in the Intermediate and Late Perennial Ryegrass Tables 2026

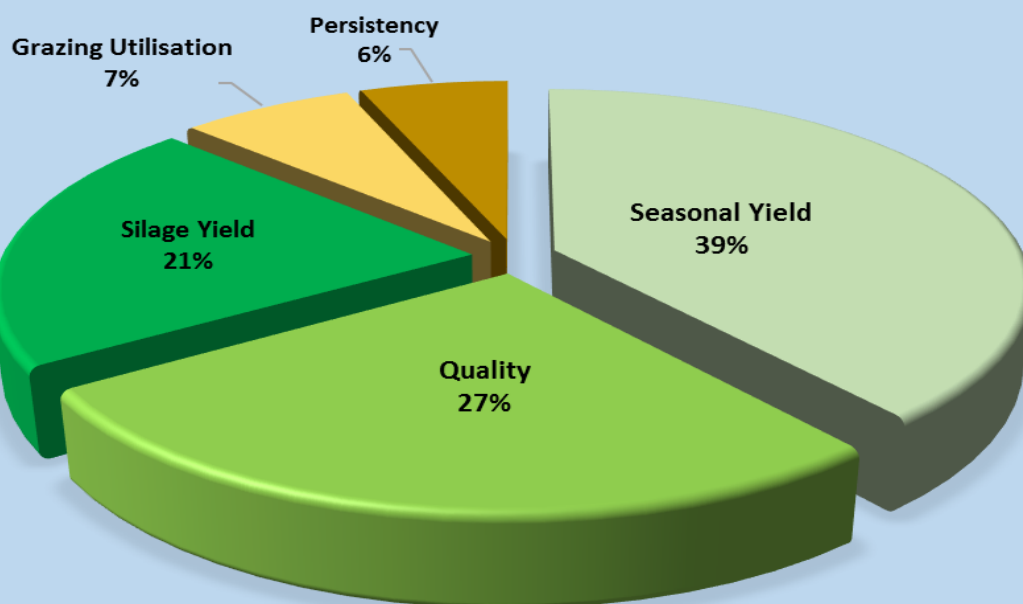
Varieties presented in the main tables on page 9 and 10 have been evaluated using the Teagasc **Pasture Profit Index** (PPI) model.

Please note that PPI base values have changed this year for the 2026 Recommended List. Please see **Appendix 1** of this publication for further details.

PPI Base values for 2026



NEW PPI RELATIVE EMPHASIS CALCULATED FOR 2026



Recommended Intermediate & Late Perennial Ryegrass Varieties 2026

Variety			Pasture Profit Index Values € / Ha / Year								Spring	Summer	Autumn	Total Yield	Mean DMD	1st Cut Silage	2nd Cut Silage	Ground Cover
			Total	Sub-Indices							(t DM / ha)	(t DM / ha)	(t DM / ha)	(t DM / ha)	(g / kg)	(t DM / ha)	(t DM / ha)	Score
Name	Ploidy	Heading Date	PPI	Spring Growth	Summer Growth	Autumn Growth	Quality	Silage	Persistence	¹ Grazing Utilisation								
Banbridge	T	26-May	268	97	42	19	42	53	0	15	1.65	7.50	2.20	11.35	838.5	5.68	4.29	5.5
Galgorm	D	26-May	213	57	53	34	45	26	0	-1	1.40	7.76	2.33	11.49	839.1	5.20	4.03	5.7
Barwave	T	22-May	197	107	31	20	-8	22	0	24	1.71	7.23	2.21	11.15	826.0	4.96	4.24	4.9
Tollymore	T	25-May	197	51	35	11	38	48	0	13	1.37	7.32	2.12	10.81	837.4	5.48	4.38	5.5
Aberclyde	T	25-May	187	35	46	8	71	24	0	2	1.27	7.61	2.10	10.98	847.6	5.07	4.14	5.5
Aberspey	T	27-May	174	23	42	27	65	13	0	4	1.20	7.49	2.26	10.95	846.5	4.66	4.33	5.6
Abersevern	D	4-Jun	169	-3	62	41	66	10	0	-7	1.04	8.01	2.39	11.44	845.0	4.33	4.68	6.0
Abergain	T	4-Jun	168	27	40	13	64	26	0	-2	1.22	7.45	2.14	10.82	844.5	4.78	4.60	5.5
Nashota	T	3-Jun	155	42	34	0	43	17	0	19	1.31	7.30	2.02	10.64	838.4	4.59	4.56	5.9
Gracehill	T	4-Jun	152	34	36	25	23	29	0	5	1.26	7.34	2.25	10.86	833.8	4.86	4.60	5.5
Aberplentiful	T	8-Jun	149	44	41	14	36	8	0	5	1.33	7.47	2.15	10.94	837.6	4.27	4.72	5.4
Abermagic	D	28-May	148	18	44	39	41	5	0	0	1.17	7.55	2.37	11.09	839.1	4.60	4.14	6.0
Astonconqueror	D	27-May	142	61	33	9	11	19	0	9	1.43	7.28	2.11	10.81	829.5	5.07	3.99	6.1
Ballintoy	T	4-Jun	142	36	37	12	35	14	0	7	1.28	7.37	2.13	10.78	837.3	4.50	4.60	5.5
Aberdon	D	13-Jun	141	-9	61	43	78	-10	0	-21	1.00	7.97	2.41	11.38	845.0	3.74	4.82	6.0
Silago	D	6-Jun	140	47	48	30	3	21	0	-9	1.34	7.64	2.29	11.28	825.3	4.56	4.74	5.9
Fintona	T	24-May	138	37	32	12	17	25	0	14	1.28	7.25	2.13	10.66	832.8	5.16	4.06	5.4
Glenfield	T	3-Jun	136	26	39	5	30	14	0	21	1.22	7.43	2.07	10.72	836.8	4.52	4.56	5.5
Anurad	T	5-Jun	136	41	28	2	44	7	0	14	1.31	7.15	2.04	10.49	838.8	4.49	4.37	5.3
Aberwolf	D	30-May	135	40	36	13	37	16	0	-6	1.30	7.34	2.14	10.78	836.4	4.66	4.43	6.6
Dunluce	T	29-May	128	13	37	15	42	14	0	7	1.14	7.36	2.16	10.66	838.4	4.40	4.71	5.3
Aberchoice	D	11-Jun	126	3	47	23	39	12	0	3	1.08	7.62	2.23	10.92	837.6	4.21	4.93	5.9
Meiduno	T	3-Jun	126	38	33	9	36	3	0	5	1.29	7.28	2.11	10.68	838.6	4.33	4.46	5.2
Moir	D	26-May	121	91	17	18	-14	15	0	-7	1.61	6.88	2.19	10.68	819.8	4.83	4.17	6.0
Aberbann	D	10-Jun	116	-7	55	33	3	30	0	2	1.02	7.82	2.32	11.15	828.5	4.42	5.23	5.9
Abergreen	D	31-May	106	27	45	32	18	-9	0	-8	1.22	7.58	2.31	11.11	832.9	4.27	4.15	6.4
Astonenergy	T	1-Jun	106	-3	26	7	68	-8	0	16	1.04	7.09	2.08	10.22	846.5	4.36	4.05	5.4
Ballyvoy	D	3-Jun	104	41	22	10	40	-6	0	-3	1.31	6.99	2.11	10.41	836.6	4.26	4.24	6.1
Aberbite	T	1-Jun	103	-11	40	18	56	12	-18	5	0.99	7.46	2.18	10.64	843.1	4.45	4.61	5.6
Briant	T	3-Jun	84	-2	36	9	31	9	0	0	1.05	7.36	2.10	10.51	834.3	4.46	4.50	5.4
Xenon	T	7-Jun	80	-1	25	-3	40	2	0	18	1.05	7.07	2.00	10.11	837.5	4.02	4.85	6.0
Aspect	T	3-Jun	80	-1	29	-7	46	3	0	10	1.05	7.17	1.96	10.19	841.5	4.17	4.67	5.9
Astonking	D	5-Jun	74	49	30	0	-5	0	0	0	1.36	7.20	2.02	10.58	822.1	4.33	4.36	5.7
Triwarwic	T	2-Jun	69	7	31	-7	25	12	0	•	1.10	7.24	1.96	10.30	835.6	4.58	4.42	5.7
Drumbo	D	5-Jun	67	11	21	5	38	-4	0	-5	1.13	6.97	2.07	10.16	834.5	4.19	4.42	6.1
Oakpark	D	2-Jun	65	16	30	15	10	10	0	-15	1.16	7.20	2.15	10.51	826.8	4.34	4.68	6.4
Bowie	D	16-Jun	44	-1	32	16	19	9	0	-30	1.05	7.24	2.17	10.46	826.7	3.84	5.32	6.3

Notes: D = Diploid, T = Tetraploid

¹Teagasc Grazing Utilisation Trait - see Appendix 1

• = No data available

Values in italics above denote the mean of the control varieties in Appendix 2

Recommended Intermediate & Late Perennial Ryegrass Varieties 2026 (by maturity and ploidy)

			Pasture Profit Index Values € / Ha / Year								Spring	Summer	Autumn	Total Yield	Mean DMD	1st Cut Silage	2nd Cut Silage	Ground Cover
Variety		Heading	Total	Sub-Indices						(t DM / ha)	(t DM / ha)	(t DM / ha)	(t DM / ha)	(g/kg)	(t DM / ha)	(t DM / ha)		
Name	Ploidy	Date	PPI	Spring Growth	Summer Growth	Autumn Growth	Quality	Silage	Persistency	* Grazing Utilisation	1.17	7.47	2.22	10.86	838.1	4.43	4.60	Score
Intermediates																		
Galgorm	D	26-May	213	57	53	34	45	26	0	-1	1.40	7.76	2.33	11.49	839.1	5.20	4.03	5.7
Moira	D	26-May	121	91	17	18	-14	15	0	-7	1.61	6.88	2.19	10.68	819.8	4.83	4.17	6.0
Astonconqueror	D	27-May	142	61	33	9	11	19	0	9	1.43	7.28	2.11	10.81	829.5	5.07	3.99	6.1
Abermagic	D	28-May	148	18	44	39	41	5	0	0	1.17	7.55	2.37	11.09	839.1	4.60	4.14	6.0
Aberwolf	D	30-May	135	40	36	13	37	16	0	-6	1.30	7.34	2.14	10.78	836.4	4.66	4.43	6.6
Abergreen	D	31-May	106	27	45	32	18	-9	0	-8	1.22	7.58	2.31	11.11	832.9	4.27	4.15	6.4
Barwave	T	22-May	197	107	31	20	-8	22	0	24	1.71	7.23	2.21	11.15	826.0	4.96	4.24	4.9
Fintona	T	24-May	138	37	32	12	17	25	0	14	1.28	7.25	2.13	10.66	832.8	5.16	4.06	5.4
Aberclyde	T	25-May	187	35	46	8	71	24	0	2	1.27	7.61	2.10	10.98	847.6	5.07	4.14	5.5
Tollymore	T	25-May	197	51	35	11	38	48	0	13	1.37	7.32	2.12	10.81	837.4	5.48	4.38	5.5
Banbridge	T	26-May	268	97	42	19	42	53	0	15	1.65	7.50	2.20	11.35	838.5	5.68	4.29	5.5
Aberspey	T	27-May	174	23	42	27	65	13	0	4	1.20	7.49	2.26	10.95	846.5	4.66	4.33	5.6
Dunluce	T	29-May	128	13	37	15	42	14	0	7	1.14	7.36	2.16	10.66	838.4	4.40	4.71	5.3
Lates																		
Oakpark	D	2-Jun	65	16	30	15	10	10	0	-15	1.16	7.20	2.15	10.51	826.8	4.34	4.68	6.4
Ballyvoy	D	3-Jun	104	41	22	10	40	-6	0	-3	1.31	6.99	2.11	10.41	836.6	4.26	4.24	6.1
Abersevern	D	4-Jun	169	-3	62	41	66	10	0	-7	1.04	8.01	2.39	11.44	845.0	4.33	4.68	6.0
Astonking	D	5-Jun	74	49	30	0	-5	0	0	0	1.36	7.20	2.02	10.58	822.1	4.33	4.36	5.7
Drumbo	D	5-Jun	67	11	21	5	38	-4	0	-5	1.13	6.97	2.07	10.16	834.5	4.19	4.42	6.1
Silago	D	6-Jun	140	47	48	30	3	21	0	-9	1.34	7.64	2.29	11.28	825.3	4.56	4.74	5.9
Aberbann	D	10-Jun	116	-7	55	33	3	30	0	2	1.02	7.82	2.32	11.15	828.5	4.42	5.23	5.9
Aberchoice	D	11-Jun	126	3	47	23	39	12	0	3	1.08	7.62	2.23	10.92	837.6	4.21	4.93	5.9
Aberdon	D	13-Jun	141	-9	61	43	78	-10	0	-21	1.00	7.97	2.41	11.38	845.0	3.74	4.82	6.0
Bowie	D	16-Jun	44	-1	32	16	19	9	0	-30	1.05	7.24	2.17	10.46	826.7	3.84	5.32	6.3
Aberbite	T	1-Jun	103	-11	40	18	56	12	-18	5	0.99	7.46	2.18	10.64	843.1	4.45	4.61	5.6
Astonenergy	T	1-Jun	106	-3	26	7	68	-8	0	16	1.04	7.09	2.08	10.22	846.5	4.36	4.05	5.4
Triwarwic	T	2-Jun	69	7	31	-7	25	12	0	●	1.10	7.24	1.96	10.30	835.6	4.58	4.42	5.7
Aspect	T	3-Jun	80	-1	29	-7	46	3	0	10	1.05	7.17	1.96	10.19	841.5	4.17	4.67	5.9
Briant	T	3-Jun	84	-2	36	9	31	9	0	0	1.05	7.36	2.10	10.51	834.3	4.46	4.50	5.4
Glenfield	T	3-Jun	136	26	39	5	30	14	0	21	1.22	7.43	2.07	10.72	836.8	4.52	4.56	5.5
Meiduno	T	3-Jun	126	38	33	9	36	3	0	5	1.29	7.28	2.11	10.68	838.6	4.33	4.46	5.2
Nashota	T	3-Jun	155	42	34	0	43	17	0	19	1.31	7.30	2.02	10.64	838.4	4.59	4.56	5.9
Abergain	T	4-Jun	168	27	40	13	64	26	0	-2	1.22	7.45	2.14	10.82	844.5	4.78	4.60	5.5
Ballintoy	T	4-Jun	142	36	37	12	35	14	0	7	1.28	7.37	2.13	10.78	837.3	4.50	4.60	5.5
Gracehill	T	4-Jun	152	34	36	25	23	29	0	5	1.26	7.34	2.25	10.86	833.8	4.86	4.60	5.5
Anurad	T	5-Jun	136	41	28	2	44	7	0	14	1.31	7.15	2.04	10.49	838.8	4.49	4.37	5.3
Xenon	T	7-Jun	80	-1	25	-3	40	2	0	18	1.05	7.07	2.00	10.11	837.5	4.02	4.85	6.0
Aberplentiful	T	8-Jun	149	44	41	14	36	8	0	5	1.33	7.47	2.15	10.94	837.6	4.27	4.72	5.4

Notes: D = Diploid, T = Tetraploid

*Teagasc Grazing Utilisation Trait - see Appendix 1

• = No data available

Values in italics above denote the mean of the control varieties in Appendix 2

Recommended Hybrid Ryegrass Varieties 2026

Variety Name	Heading Date	Total Yield	Ground Cover 1-9	Spring Growth	Silage Yield	*DMD %	*WSC %
<i>HY Control Mean t DM/ha</i>		16.0	5.3	1.2	8.6	79.2	18.9
Aberecho (T)	18-May	99	5.6	95	102	(104.7)	(129)

*Data included in this table compared to Hybrid Control varieties sown before 2011.
() indicates provisional data.*

Variety Name	Heading Date	Total Rel. Yield	Ground Cover 1-9	Spring Growth	1 st Cut Silage	2 nd Cut Silage	*DMD %
<i>*PRG Control Mean t DM/ha</i>		14.4	5.6	1.1	4.5	4.4	83.9
Bannfoot (T)	23-May	101	5.0	129	113	94	98.9
Aberimage (T)	29-May	106	5.0	156	98	117	99.1

**Data included in this table compared to Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass Control varieties sown after 2011.*

**DMD and WSC controls data is shown as g/100g on both Tables.
All variety data is given in relative values, relative to the mean of the control varieties, except for Ground Cover.*

Please note: Data in the two Hybrid tables above is not comparable, as hybrid control varieties were used in the first table and Perennial Ryegrass (Intermediate) control varieties were used in the second table.

Control varieties can be found in [Appendix 2](#) Page 24.

GRASS VARIETY DESCRIPTIONS

Introduction

The variety descriptions in this booklet are based on the information provided in the Main Tables.

The descriptions are generally confined to pointing out cases where a variety's performance relative to other varieties in the same group differs considerably regarding a particular characteristic. The descriptions are not intended to give an overview of the value of a variety as regards all of its characteristics.

All the varieties on the recommended list are those that performed best in trials conducted by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in Ireland and for which commercial quantities of seed have been produced by the seed industry. The trials included large numbers of varieties put forward by breeders from many countries.

In the descriptions in the following pages the varieties are **listed in heading date order within each category/group**.

INTERMEDIATE PERENNIAL RYEGRASS: DIPLOIDS

Name	Description	Breeder	Year 1st Listed
Galgorm:	Excellent spring, summer and autumn growth. Silage yield is very good. Dry matter digestibility is very good. Ground cover is good and the variety is persistent.	AFBI	2024
Moir:	Excellent spring growth. Silage yield is good. Ground cover is good and the variety is persistent.	AFBI	2018
Aston-conqueror:	Very good spring growth. Good silage yield. Ground cover is good and the variety is persistent.	DSV	2018
Abermagic:	Excellent summer and autumn growth. Dry matter digestibility is very good. A good silage variety. Ground cover is good and the variety is persistent.	IBERS	2010
Aberwolf:	Good spring, summer and autumn growth. Good Dry Matter Digestibility. Silage yield is good. Ground cover is very good and the variety is persistent.	IBERS	2017
Abergreen:	Very good summer and autumn growth. Ground cover is very good and the variety is persistent. It is the latest heading variety in the intermediates group.	IBERS	2018

INTERMEDIATE PERENNIAL RYEGRASS: TETRAPLOIDS

Name	Description	Breeder	Year 1st Listed
Barwave:	Excellent spring and autumn growth. Dry Matter Digestibility is moderate. It is the earliest heading tetraploid variety in its category. Silage yield is very good. Ground cover is moderate and the variety is persistent.	Barenbrug	2022
Fintona:	Good spring and autumn growth. Dry Matter Digestibility is moderate. Silage yield is good. Ground cover is moderate and the variety is persistent.	AFBI	2017
Aberclyde:	Good seasonal growth and good silage yield. Dry Matter Digestibility is excellent. Ground cover is moderate and the variety is persistent.	IBERS	2017
Tollymore:	Good seasonal growth and Dry Matter Digestibility. Excellent silage yield, with the second highest of all varieties. Ground cover is moderate.	AFBI	2024
Banbridge:	First year on the Recommended List. Excellent spring and summer growth. Excellent silage yield, with the highest of all varieties. Ground cover is moderate.	AFBI	2026
Aberspey:	Good summer and autumn growth. Excellent Dry Matter Digestibility. Good silage yield and the variety is persistent.	IBERS	2024
Dunluce:	Good summer and autumn growth. Dry matter digestibility is very good. It is the latest heading tetraploid variety in the intermediates group. Ground cover is moderate.	AFBI	2007

LATE PERENNIAL RYEGRASS: DIPLOIDS

Name	Description	Breeder	Year 1st Listed
Oakpark:	Good spring, summer and autumn growth. Good silage yield. Ground cover is very good and the variety is persistent.	Teagasc	2019
Ballyvoy:	Very good spring growth. Dry matter digestibility is good. Ground cover is good and the variety is persistent.	AFBI	2021
Abersevern:	Excellent summer and autumn growth. Dry matter digestibility is very good. Ground cover is good and the variety is persistent.	IBERS	2025
Astonking:	Very good spring growth. Good silage yield. The variety is persistent.	DSV	2019
Drumbo:	Good summer growth. Dry matter digestibility is very good. Ground cover is good and the variety is persistent.	AFBI	2011
Silago:	First year on the Recommended List. Very good seasonal growth. Silage yield is very good. Dry matter digestibility is moderate. The variety is persistent.	DLF	2026
Aberbann:	Excellent summer and autumn growth. Excellent silage yield. Dry matter digestibility is moderate. The variety is persistent.	IBERS	2022
Aberchoice:	Very good summer and autumn growth. Dry matter digestibility is very good. Ground cover is good and the variety is persistent.	IBERS	2012
Aberdon:	First year on the Recommended List. Excellent summer and autumn growth. Excellent Dry matter digestibility. Ground cover is good and the variety is persistent.	IBERS	2026

Bowie:	Good summer and autumn growth. Dry matter digestibility is good. It is the latest heading variety on the Recommended List. Ground cover is very good and the variety is persistent.	DLF	2021
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LATE PERENNIAL RYEGRASS: TETRAPLOIDS

Name	Description	Breeder	Year 1st Listed
Aberbite:	Very good summer and autumn growth. Very good quality. Very good silage yield. Ground cover score is moderate.	IBERS	2018
Astonenergy:	Good summer and autumn growth. Dry matter digestibility is excellent. Ground cover is moderate and the variety is persistent.	DSV	2015
Triwarwic:	Good summer growth and silage yield is very good. Ground cover is moderate and the variety is persistent.	DLF	2019
Aspect:	Good summer growth. Dry matter digestibility is good. Ground cover is good and the variety is persistent.	DLF	2014
Briant:	Summer and autumn growth is good. Ground cover is moderate and the variety is persistent.	Barenbrug	2019
Glenfield	Very good spring, summer and autumn growth. Dry matter digestibility is good. Silage yield is very good. Ground cover is moderate and the variety is persistent.	Teagasc	2021

Meiduno:	Very good seasonal growth. Dry Matter Digestibility is good. Ground cover moderate and the variety is persistent.	DLF	2017
Nashota:	Very good spring and summer growth. Dry matter digestibility is very good. Silage yield is very good. Ground cover is good and the variety is persistent.	DLF	2020
Abergain:	Very good summer and autumn growth. Dry matter digestibility is excellent. Excellent silage yield. Ground cover is moderate and the variety is persistent.	IBERS	2013
Ballintoy:	Good spring, summer and autumn growth. Dry matter digestibility is good. Silage yield is very good. Ground cover is moderate and the variety is persistent.	AFBI	2019
Gracehill	Excellent summer and autumn growth and excellent silage yield, being highest in its category. Ground cover is moderate and the variety is persistent.	AFBI	2021
Anurad:	Excellent spring growth. Dry matter digestibility is very good. Ground cover is moderate and the variety is persistent.	DLF	2023
Xenon:	Good summer growth. Dry matter digestibility is very good. Ground cover is very good for a late tetraploid and the variety is persistent.	DLF	2016
Aberplentiful:	Excellent spring and summer growth. Very good autumn growth. Dry matter digestibility is good. Ground cover is moderate and the variety is persistent.	IBERS	2014

HYBRID RYEGRASS:

Name	Description	Breeder	Year 1st Listed
Aberecho (T):	Its quality results are promising but are provisional. The variety is compared to that of Hybrid control varieties.	IBERS	2013
Bannfoot (T):	Excellent spring growth and very good silage yield. Ground cover moderate. Considered suitable for growing for short term / conservation use. Variety compared to that of Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass control varieties.	AFBI	2023
Aberimage (T):	Excellent spring growth and very good silage yield. Ground cover moderate. Considered suitable for growing for short term / conservation use. Variety compared to that of Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass control varieties.	IBERS	2023

Recommended White Clover Varieties 2026

Variety Name	Total Yield	Leaf Size*	Clover %	Year 1 st Listed	Breeder
¹ Control Mean (t DM/ha): 9.9 t DM/ha					
Brianna	100.4	Very Large	47.9	2024	DLF
Kakariki	101.5	Very Large	53.0	2024	GTL/ Limagrain
Clodagh	106.8	Large	52.8	2025	Teagasc
Barblanca	104.7	Large	49.2	2009	Barenbrug
Violin	101.2	Large	45.9	2020	DLF
Alice	100.0	Large	49.0	1995	Barenbrug
Dublin	101.8	Large	49.0	2018	Teagasc
Dundrum	105.2	Medium	50.3	2026	Teagasc
Dungloe	102.6	Medium	49.7	2025	Teagasc
Chieftain	97.2	Medium	44.7	2005	Teagasc
Aberswan	94.3	Medium	49.1	2022	IBERS
Buddy	98.4	Medium	46.1	2015	Teagasc
Iona	95.4	Medium	42.0	2014	Teagasc
Crusader	96.4	Medium	45.3	2009	Barenbrug
Aberherald	97.7	Medium	44.8	2003	IBERS
Coolfin	103.8	Small	46.3	2017	Teagasc
Aberpearl	99.6	Small	44.7	2022	IBERS
Aberace	95.1	Small	32.8	2016	IBERS

¹Controls in the 2022 Trial were Barblanca (L), Alice (L), Chieftain (M) and Crusader (M). Control varieties are listed in Appendix 2 on page 24.

*Leaf size compared to the Very Large leaf variety 'Aran' based largely on data from UK and European DUS tests. For comparative purposes only.

WHITE CLOVER VARIETY DESCRIPTIONS

Name	Description	Breeder	Year 1st Listed
Brianna:	A very large leaved variety. Good annual yield. Considered suitable for silage production and less intensive grazing. Recommended for the first time in 2024.	DLF	2024
Kakariki:	A very large leaved variety. Good annual yield. Considered suitable for silage production and less intensive grazing.	*GTL/ Limagrain	2024
Clodagh:	A large leaved variety. Very good annual yield. Considered suitable for silage production and less intensive grazing.	Teagasc	2025
Barblanca:	A large leaved variety. Very good annual yield. Considered suitable for silage production and less intensive grazing.	Barenbrug	2009
Violin:	A large leaved variety. Good annual yield. Considered suitable for silage production and less intensive grazing.	DLF/ Limagrain	2020
Alice:	A large leaved variety. Very good annual yield. Considered suitable for silage production and less intensive grazing.	Barenbrug	1995
Dublin:	A large leaved variety. Good annual yield. Considered suitable for silage production and less intensive grazing.	Teagasc	2018
Dundrum:	A medium leaved variety. First year on the Recommended List. Considered suitable for grazing.	Teagasc	2026
Dungloe:	A medium leaved variety. Considered suitable for grazing.	Teagasc	2025
Chieftain:	A medium leaved variety. Considered suitable for grazing.	Teagasc	2005
Aberswan:	A medium leaved variety. Considered suitable for grazing.	IBERS	2022
Buddy:	A medium leaved variety. Considered suitable for grazing.	Teagasc	2015
Iona:	A medium leaved variety. Considered suitable for grazing.	Teagasc	2014
Crusader:	A medium leaved variety. Considered suitable for grazing.	Barenbrug	2009
Aberherald:	A medium leaved variety. Considered suitable for grazing.	IBERS	2003

Coolfin:	A small leaved variety. Very good annual yield. It competes well with the accompanying grass. Considered suitable for grazing.	Teagasc	2017
Aberpearl:	A small leaved variety. Good annual yield. Considered suitable for grazing.	IBERS	2022
Aberace:	A small leaved variety and is currently the smallest on the Recommended List. Considered suitable for grazing.	IBERS	2016

*Variety bred by Grasslanz Technology Ltd. and represented by Limagrain UK

Appendix 1 (RL 2026): Pasture Profit Index (PPI) 'Base Values' for 2026

Seasonal Dry Matter Yield

DM yield	Kg Δ DM yield* (no change)	Previous PPI Base Value	Updated PPI Base Values
Spring (t DM/ha)	€0.17	1.001	1.059
Summer (t DM/ha)	€0.04	6.097	6.449
Autumn (t DM/ha)	€0.11	1.911	2.021
Annual yield (t DM/ha)	-	9.009	9.529

Seasonal Quality (Dry Matter Digestibility)

	Previous PPI base values				Updated PPI base values			
	DMD 1	DMD 2	DMD 3	DMD4	DMD1	DMD 2	DMD 3	DMD 4
Unit Δ DMD/Kg* (No change)	-€0.001	-€0.009	-€0.011	-€0.010	-€0.001	-€0.009	-€0.011	-€0.010
Quality base values g/kg	876.1	842.3	816.2	828.0	838.8	836.4	819.1	800.4

Silage Yield

	Kg Δ DM yield* (no change)	Previous PPI base value	Updated PPI base value
1 st Cut silage	€0.04	4.50 kg DM/ha	4.79 kg DM/ha
2 nd Cut silage	€0.03	3.50 kg DM/ha	3.73 kg DM/ha

Persistence

	Previous PPI economic value	Updated PPI economic value
	Based on cost of reseeding of €800/ha	Based on cost of reseeding of €1,100/ha
Persistence	€67/year	€92/year

Grazing Utilisation

	Previous PPI economic value	Updated PPI economic value
	RGH calculated across all grazing rotations at a value of €0.04/Kg DM	RGH calculated across 5 summer rotations - at a value of €0.04/Kg DM
Grazing Utilisation	Star Rating assigned	€ value assigned

* Δ (Delta) refers to 'change'

Persistence (-€92/year)

The economic merit of each variety for persistence was determined by dividing the reseeding cost by the number of years a variety persists, with varieties surviving the yield threshold for **12 years** (Creighton et al, 2011) or longer getting a **value of €0** and all varieties having a shorter period having a negative economic value. The number of years in which a variety yielded greater than **6.5 t DM/ha** was quantified as the number of years for which that variety persisted.

Ground score (GS) is a visual estimation of the proportion of sward perennial ryegrass content (Camlin & Stewart, 1976). Ground score was estimated at the end of Year 1 and Year 2 in VCU trials. The difference in GS between these two years was defined as **ground score change (GSA)**. **For each one-unit loss in GS, a corresponding loss in DM yield of 1683 kg DM/ha was applied.** The rate of GSA post year 2 was assumed to be 0.54 of the rate of change between the first two years.

Reseeding was deemed necessary when a variety reached the 6.5 t DM/ha threshold yield within which the number of years a variety persisted was determined.

Grazing Utilisation Trait for RL 2026

Explanation provided by Teagasc Moorepark

Varieties that display improved ability to be grazed by dairy cows allow for increased utilisation pasture leading to productivity increases on farm. Variety grazing assessments have been conducted at Teagasc Moorepark in plot grazing studies since 2017. Variety grazing efficiency differences are expressed as Residual Grazed Height (RGH).

The Residual Grazed Height of a variety is the difference between observed post-grazing sward height (measured with a rising plate meter) and its predicted post-grazing sward height. Predicted post-grazing sward height is derived from the pre-grazing sward height of a variety.

Where a variety's observed post-grazing sward height is greater than its predicted, the resulting residual grazed value is positive which is indicative of poorer grazing efficiency, i.e. *the variety was grazed to a higher post-grazing sward height than expected*. If a varieties observed post-grazing sward height is lower than its predicted, the resulting residual grazed height is negative, indicative of better grazing performance (i.e. better clean out). Post grazing sward height data from the on-farm variety evaluation trial supports the variety plot grazing results.

Where varieties are represented by a dot (●), there is currently no grazing data available.

RGH for 2026 has been calculated across 5 summer rotations - at a value of €0.04 per Kg of Dry Matter.

Appendix 2 (RL 2026): Control varieties

Grass

	INTERMEDIATE PRG* Control Varieties
Trial Sown 2021 & 2022	Abermagic, Dunluce (T), Aberchoice (Late), Ballintoy (T) (Late)

	LATE PRG* Control Varieties
Trial Sown 2021 & 2022	Abermagic, (Inter), Dunluce (T) (Inter), Aberchoice, Ballintoy (T)

* 'PRG' is used to indicate 'Perennial Ryegrass'.

	HYBRID Control Varieties
Trial Sown 2009	Abereve (T), Marmota (T), Pirol, Redunca (T)
Trials Sown after 2013	Abermagic (Inter Diploid PRG), Dunluce (Inter Tetraploid PRG)

* 'PRG' is used to indicate 'Perennial Ryegrass'.

White Clover

	WHITE CLOVER Control Varieties
Trial Sown 2020	Barblanca, Chieftain, Crusader, Alice

Appendix 3 (RL 2026): General Purpose – Additional Data¹

Variety Name	Ploidy	Spring (t DM/ha)	Late Summer (t DM/ha)	Autumn (t DM/ha)
<i>Control Mean (t DM/ha)</i>	-	<i>1.15</i>	<i>1.69</i>	<i>2.60</i>

Intermediate PRG Group

Galgorm	D	1.33	1.80	2.94
Moirá	D	1.55	1.62	2.64
Astonconqueror	D	1.25	1.58	2.40
Abermagic*	D	1.06	1.74	2.76
Aberwolf	D	1.34	1.65	2.53
Abergreen	D	1.27	1.71	2.65
Barwave	T	1.74	1.68	2.66
Fintona	T	1.28	1.62	2.56
Aberclyde	T	1.11	1.45	2.30
Tollymore	T	1.48	1.56	2.58
Banbridge	T	1.41	1.59	2.56
Aberspey	T	1.27	1.79	2.63
Dunluce*	T	1.12	1.66	2.55

Late PRG Group

Oakpark	D	1.15	1.59	2.49
Ballyvoy	D	1.21	1.59	2.49
Abersevern	D	1.01	1.95	2.77
Astonking	D	1.32	1.62	2.44
Drumbo	D	1.11	1.61	2.32
Silago	D	1.18	1.71	2.63
Aberbann	D	1.08	1.79	2.57
Aberchoice*	D	1.12	1.67	2.60
Aberdon	D	0.93	1.94	2.84
Bowie	D	1.02	1.60	2.56
Aberbite	T	0.98	1.74	2.66
Astonenergy	T	1.08	1.70	2.43
Triwarwic	T	1.11	1.74	2.51
Aspect	T	1.19	1.55	2.46
Briant	T	1.20	1.76	2.51
Glenfield	T	1.09	1.56	2.34
Meiduno	T	1.35	1.71	2.48
Nashota	T	1.30	1.73	2.45
Abergain	T	1.34	1.66	2.58
Ballintoy*	T	1.31	1.69	2.50
Gracehill	T	1.39	1.68	2.66
Anurad	T	1.24	1.49	2.29
Xenon	T	1.05	1.59	2.35
Aberplentiful	T	1.14	1.66	2.62

¹Silage yields are included in the main RL tables on pages 9 & 10 for corresponding PPI values.

*2022 Control varieties are listed in Appendix 2.

Appendix 4 (RL 2026): Simulated Grazing (frequent cutting) - Dry Matter Digestibility (DMD) Data²

Variety Name	Ploidy	DMD 1 (April)	DMD 2 (May)	DMD 3 (June)	DMD 4 (July)
<i>*Control Mean (g/kg)</i>	-	863.2	838.9	824.9	825.3

Intermediate PRG Group

Galgorm	D	862.4	837.7	827.8	828.5
Moira	D	837.8	816.3	811.3	813.9
Astonconqueror	D	854.6	826.1	814.3	823.1
Abermagic*	D	865.5	836.1	821.8	833.1
Aberwolf	D	857.4	840.8	819.0	828.6
Abergreen	D	860.4	835.6	813.5	822.1
Barwave	T	860.2	819.0	817.5	807.4
Fintona	T	862.8	828.6	816.7	823.1
Aberclyde	T	873.0	843.5	830.7	843.3
Tollymore	T	863.8	832.9	837.7	815.4
Bannbridge	T	861.4	843.3	818.2	831.3
Aberspey	T	873.6	847.4	829.2	835.8
Dunluce*	T	862.0	837.9	826.1	827.5

Late PRG Group

Oakpark	D	843.0	829.8	815.5	818.9
Ballyvoy	D	855.5	840.3	822.9	827.9
Abersevern	D	867.9	834.3	835.7	842.0
Astonking	D	838.5	822.0	813.6	814.3
Drumbo	D	849.0	835.9	829.5	823.6
Silago	D	843.8	830.0	818.1	809.5
Aberbann	D	857.6	832.8	818.7	805.0
Aberchoice*	D	860.5	845.1	826.8	817.7
Aberdon	D	855.4	844.5	842.1	838.0
Bowie	D	834.8	828.4	829.9	813.7
Aberbite	T	868.6	842.0	830.4	831.4
Astonenergy	T	871.1	848.2	834.1	832.5
Triwarwic	T	866.5	833.0	819.4	823.3
Aspect	T	871.6	847.5	830.9	816.2
Briant	T	855.1	834.1	824.0	824.0
Glenfield	T	866.9	835.2	823.5	821.5
Meiduno	T	868.3	840.0	827.0	818.8
Nashota	T	861.8	837.9	833.7	820.1
Abergain	T	866.9	844.3	834.2	832.8
Ballintoy*	T	864.7	836.5	824.9	823.0
Gracehill	T	861.8	834.1	823.7	815.7
Anurad	T	861.5	836.5	824.6	832.4
Xenon	T	860.3	840.7	826.4	822.7
Aberplentiful	T	864.6	837.7	827.4	820.7

²Individual DMD results relating to Cuts 1-4 for 2026 Recommended List varieties.

*2022 Control varieties are listed in Appendix 2.

Appendix 5 (RL 2026): Breeder's details³

Breeder	Country	Address
AFBI Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute	Northern Ireland	Manor House, Loughgall, Armagh, BT61 8 JB
Barenbrug	The Netherlands	Barenbrug Holland BV Postbus 1338 6501 BH Nijmegen
DLF Seeds A/S	Denmark	Højerupvej 31 DK 4660 Store Heddinge
DSV Deutsche Saatveredelung AG	Germany	Weissenburger Straße 5, 59557 Lippstadt
IBERS Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (Wales)	United Kingdom	Aberystwyth University (IBERS), Plas Gogerddan, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 3EE
ILVO Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research	Belgium	Dept. for Plant Breeding and Genetics, Caritasstraat 21, 9090 Melle,
Limagrain (UK)	United Kingdom	Limagrain UK Ltd., Rothwell, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire, LN7 6DT
NPZ Norddeutsche Pflanzenzucht	Germany	Norddeutsche Pflanzenzucht Hans-Georg Lembke KG Hohenlieth D-24363 Holtsee
Teagasc	Ireland	Oak Park Research Centre, Carlow

³Breeders details above are listed in alphabetical order and represent those breeders who have bred varieties of Grass and/or White Clover listed in this publication.



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

RECOMMENDED LISTS

Cereal Varieties

Grass and White Clover Varieties

Forage Maize Varieties

Winter Oilseed Rape Varieties

Spring Bean Varieties

CROP SCHEMES AND SERVICES

Seed Certification

Seed Testing

**The use of certified seed ensures a high level of varietal purity
and germination.**

Recommended Lists on the DAFM Website

gov.ie - Crops (www.gov.ie)

The Grass and White Clover Recommended List Varieties
2026 booklet is available on the Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine website at the link above.