



Overseeding a grazed sward



Direct drilling grass into stubble



Direct Drilled Stubble Turnips



Direct Drilled Forage Kale



3.0 Grassland overseeding silage sward.



Close Up of Coulters System

SPECIFICATION

The Uni-Drill prepares its own mini seed bed by using an angled disc and seed tube coulters.

All seeds are planted at a constant depth using the press wheel rollers which follow the ground contours.

There is no compaction or smearing of the slits. The press wheels consolidate the seed and soil to give good even seed germination.



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HOW TO USE Grassland Unidrills



Moore System

DIRECT DRILLING GRASS INTO GRASS

A healthy field of grass is one of the most valuable assets a livestock farmer can have - and direct drilling can help you grow more grass and better grass - at less cost, because there is less labour, machinery and time involved. Other benefits are; reduced poaching, a reduction in the number of broad-leaved weeds, and the direct drill's ability to tackle even quite "difficult" land. The direct drilling of grass into either a short term or long term ley is a simple enough matter, and even old, worn-out pastures can be re-seeded with the direct drill providing a few simple precautions are observed.

A one to ten year old "open" ley presents no problems generally having had no time to build up any substantial quantity of mat in the bottom. Several methods may apply for successful seeding.

METHOD 1

Where a cut of silage is being taken, and the field is going to grazing, cut low to the ground and direct drill the new grass seed mixture the next day. There should be enough moisture retained in the soil to germinate the seed and get it growing before the cut sward can fully recover. Graze with young stock or sheep about 3 to 4 weeks later, in order to keep the existing sward down, allowing the new seedlings enough moisture and light to get established.

METHOD 2

Graze the sward bare using a Mob stocking technique. Drill the sward, and keep the stock on until the new shoots are visible, remove the stock, and re-graze 3 to 4 weeks later.

METHOD 3

Graze the pasture as bare as possible, then spray with Gramoxone (1 pint/acre) and direct drill the new seeds mixture. Gramoxone used at a low rate will not kill the old grass sward but should retard its growth sufficiently to get the new seeds established. The chemical ASULOX can be used instead of Gramoxone. This chemical gives good control of docks and some weed grasses, and retards growth of existing rye-grass (short term) to allow new seedlings to establish.



Direct Reseeding Grass into sprayed pasture (August).



Same field 3 weeks later.



Same field mid winter.

METHOD 4

If the pasture has been badly poached or there are bad patches due to frost kill etc., over the winter, new grass seeds should be drilled just before growth starts (March/April).

METHOD 5

Where the old pasture is very weedy and a complete reseed is required, spray with Roundup (pre or post harvest) to get a total kill of all vegetation. Leave the field for the recommended period, and direct drill with a new seeds mixture. To get a better grass cover, cross drilling at an angle is recommended.

OLDER LEYS

Older leys, rough permanent grass or old worn-out pastures need to be approached with care. Although the chemical Roundup deactivates in contact with soil, the chemical can still be active within the thick mat of roots found in old permanent pasture. This can kill the emerging seedlings. If in doubt, leave the field to decay as long as possible between desiccation and drilling. In some cases desiccate with Roundup in autumn and leave to decay over winter and drill in spring, or break the mat by a shallow rotary cultivation before direct drilling.

In all the above cases, we recommend drilling 10-15 kg/acre of a specialist mixture, blended using vigorous, quick establishing and competitive grass-seed.

PESTS

Old grass can harbour slugs all year round, so it may be advisable, especially in heavier soils, to sow slug pellets along with seed or broadcast the pellets at a higher rate where an attack has been observed after drilling.

Leather Jackets (Daddy Long Leg Larvae)

This can be a problem especially in a spring drilling situation. If a field is thought to be at risk, spraying with Spannit or Dursban 4 during late Autumn or Winter has given the best control.

Frit Fly

Reseeds sown after early August can be at risk from Frit Fly. This pest is usually very localised, fields with a past history of attacks, and high risk Frit Fly years, should be acknowledged. Spraying with Dursban 4 or Spannit either at sward desiccation or early post drilling gives good control.