

Methods of Reseeding

Oversowing involves scratching the surface of the soil with a series of tines and spreading seed on the scratched surface. It is often used as a way of rejuvenating pastures. Damp weather is most suitable when using this system to encourage grass seed to germinate. Usually give the ground 3 runs with the 10mm tines to blacken the soil and pull up grass and moss. The system works best if ground is bare from grazing or after cutting silage. On the third round, he blows grass seed on the ground with the pneumatic seeder attached to the main frame. It's best not to roll the ground afterwards. The rain will help seal up the ground or a coat of watery slurry works well also. Under good sowing conditions, the new seedlings will outperform the old pasture. Oversowing is a quick job to complete because the tines work best when driven at speed and they are covering a 6m width. It is a cost-effective alternative to other methods of seeding and the cost is about €8 to €10 per run per acre, depending on acreage and other factors. This reseeding method is suitable for all types of land. Lime should be spread to counteract acidity from residues of the old sward. Oversowing has been around for several years and some find it successful, while others don't like it at all.



Güttler and ripping harrow

The ripping harrow is made up of three rows of very strong tines. The front row of tines have a 12mm tip similar to the guttler tines, while the second and third row have 80mm x 10mm tines with furrow cracker forks at the tip of the tines. The harrow gives a shallow till of the soil and creates a nice seedbed on the topsoil. Seed is broadcast fully by the precision air seeder and is pressed down by the Güttnler prismatic roller. The key to successful reseeding with the Güttnler system is preparation before seeding and management after seeding, It is best to enter a field that has been burnt off and there is not too much trash present. If entering a field that has not been burnt off, then usually only hybrid grasses can compete so it is recommended to spray off old existing swards. This non-spray method suits for rejuvenating medium term leys rather than very old pastures. Some farmers with high stocking rates, who cannot afford a long turnaround between seeding and grazing, find not burning off the land a safer option. The high stocking rate leaves them in a position to manage the reseed aftersowing better because they will keep it grazed down tight. The Güttnler system is suitable for periods of broken weather. It costs €55 approx per acre for one run of the Güttnler and ripping harrow.



Unidrill

This is a useful method because of the quick turnaround between sowing and grazing. The most common method used is to spray off silage with Roundup a week before cutting. Once the grass is cut and removed from the field, John moves in with the drill. Grass seed is drilled in at a rate of 12kg to 14kg per acre. It is better to spread lime on the reseeded field after sowing because any decaying matter from the old sward will leave the soil in an acidic state. The finer the lime is, the more accessible it will be to the soil and the quicker it should neutralise the pH of the soil. Grass seed can also be drilled into bare open pasture preferably after cutting or topping, where paddocks haven't been sprayed off. Again, the pH of the soil is important (ideally, 6.5). Any growth after completing the job should be grazed down tight after drilling until the new shoots start to appear. The Moore Unidrill has a single disc that cuts a slot in the soil. Alongside the disc, there is a seed tube which directs seed to fall into the slot left by the disc. The seed tube also doubles as a tine and creates some soil disturbance around the seed. A Güttler roller follows the operation and thumbs in the soil to allow greater soil seed contact. It works well on difficult ground and stony land is not a problem. It costs about €40 per acre to carry out the seeding.



Reseeding 2014	Comments
Tonnes of grass consumed by a cow per year	5.5 tonnes Dm/Cow
Number of times a paddock will be grazed each year	7-10 times
Paddock selection for reseed	Poor performing, poor yielding
When to reseed	Spring, as this gives better opportunity for post emergence spray for docks etc Swards get opportunity to thicken
Soil Test	Allow 2 months after slurry or chemical Phosphorus or Potash were used
Spraying off	Glyphosphate – dilution of the product properly, spray in calm, and dry conditions Leave 7-10 days May need a second spray if high % scutch
Select correct grass seed mix	Max 3-4 varieties Heading dates to be similar(within 7 days) Good Spring growth Late heading varieties/ some intermediates Essential they are on recommended list
Ratio of Tetraploids versus Diploids in a mix Tetraploids are open, more palatable & higher yielding Diploids are not as open and less palatable	40(tetraploids):60(diploids)
Seeding Rates	34kg/ha
Seed Bed	Fine and firm with very little trash
Lime recommendation	2 tonnes/acre
Fertiliser if soil tests are unknown	3 bags 10-10-20/acre
Fertiliser after seeds emerge	1 bag CAN/acre
Post emergence spray for seedling weeds important	Undersown spray product
Slug pellets	To be applied at sowing(5-9kg/acre) Do the fertiliser bag test first
Frit-Fly	Spray in high risk periods
Paddock cover to get grazed	500-700 kg Dm/ha (pull test)
Total approximate cost of reseed	€300/acre

Reseeding 2014

Group to be given this blank sheet(page 5) to complete blank column below

Page 1-4 can then be given to the group and discussed after columns are completed below

	Comments/Answers from group
Tonnes of grass consumed by a cow per year	
Number of times a paddock will be grazed each year	
Paddock selection for reseeding	
When to reseed	
Soil Test	
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