Wholecrop BPX
Pea x Barley Wholecrop Mixture

For the best results - just mix the best Peas with the best Barley!

60% Rose Maple Peas
40% Westminster/Evergreen Spring Barley

- Short Growing Season of 12-15 Weeks
- Potential yield: 9-11 t @ 35% DM.
- Potential quality 12% Protein and 70'D' value.
- Low input.
- High degree of reliability.
- Potential for under-sowing.
- Can also be combined and dried or crimped.

65 & 100 % ORGANIC Versions Available

Why Peas for Wholecrop Mixes
- Higher protein and ME than Cereals.
- Potential to add +70 kg/ha of N to the following crop.
- Similar harvest date to Spring Barley
- 3-5 weeks earlier than Lupins.

Why Spring Barley for Wholecrop Mixes
- Proven high wholecrop yield.
- Better ‘D’ value to Wheat, Triticale or Oats
- Earlier than the other spring cereals.
- Harvest date similar to early Peas.

Why Maple Peas?
- More vigorous than other peas. – Easier to establish.
- Tannin in seed protects it from pests and disease. - Less attractive to pigeons!
- Higher protein % than conventional peas.

Why WESTMINSTER & EVERGREEN Barley
- High grain yield for optimum energy density.
- Tall, fairly stiff straw.
- Both varieties have excellent Mildew and Rhynchosporium resistance.

Why ROSE?
- Highest grain yield of any Maple Pea, gives optimum nutrient density.
- Proven in wholecrop trials.
- Tall, very stiff-stemmed, semi-leafless variety.
- Early ripening.
- Small seeded variety- easier drilling & low seed rate.

Undersowing WHOLECROP BPX
In fertile soils, the vigour of standard Wholecrop BPX can shade out grass seedlings, especially slower growing, longer term species. For these situations we produce a version of the mix with shorter, less aggressive barley.

To optimise grass establishment also:
- Decrease cover crop seed rate by 30%.
- Sow the grass seed on the same day.

Wholecrop Mixture - Growers Guidelines

Soil Type
Both Peas and Barley perform best on medium and lighter, free draining soils with a pH above 6.

Seedbed
Medium-fine, well consolidated, but not ‘compacted’ seedbed.

Sowing Method
Barley & Peas should be sown at 3.0 – 4.0 cm with a seed drill. Consolidate with a Cambridge roll. If undersowing, Drill the Wholecrop BPX first and then immediately shallow drill, or broadcast the grass seed, then consolidate and cover grass seed with a Cambridge roll.

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**Wholecrop Mixture - Growers Guidelines** – (Continued)

### Target Sowing Date
In most areas, Mid-March to mid-April is ideal. Minimum soil temperature of 6-7°C at 10 cm is suggested.

### Fertilizer Requirements
P & K requirements for Peas and Barley are similar, but refer to RB209 for exact recommendations. The Barley needs nitrogen to perform – It is a myth that the peas provide nitrogen to the Barley, they only produce N for themselves, though residual N is available to the following crop, so we would suggest applying 75% of normal Barley requirements. Be cautious with N fertilizer in very fertile soil conditions – crops can lodge.

### Weed Control
There are very few herbicides available which can be used on both Peas & Barley. Good seedbeds and optimum crop competition normally succeed in supressing weeds. With undersown Wholecrop BPX there will be less herbicide options, but weeds are further supressed, by the amount of seed sown. If you have a particularly weedy field, or a challenging perennial weed, like Docks – Do not undersow, reseed immediately after harvest.

### Disease Control
To minimise the risk of disease, we use varieties with good resistance, particularly to Mildew and Rhynchosporium. There may be situations where a fungicide may be appropriate.

### Pest Control
The main risk is birds targeting the peas. Use all methods of bird scaring at your disposal. In extreme cases stringing cotton across the crop may be necessary. Vigilance is important. For other potential insect pests, like Leather Jackets, consult a BASIS qualified Agronomist.

### Harvest Equipment
Before you sow Wholecrop BPX, make sure you have access to appropriate foraging equipment. Conventional wholecrop headers can struggle with bi-crops, particularly if the crop is undersown. We strongly recommend ‘direct cut’ disc headers like the Quuckut GB (illustrated). Most forager manufacturers make direct cut disc headers, so they are now available though out the UK. Don’t wait until harvest, Talk to your local contractors before you sow.

### Harvest Timing
Barley and Peas reach wholecrop harvest date at a similar time. For central and southern Britain in a normal season, the harvest date following a late March sowing will be about 20th-25th July. Add on days for later sowings, higher altitude or northern counties. Target dry matter is 30-40% dry matter. **Harvest timing is defined by the Barley growth stage only,** this is because, if the Barley becomes too ripe, the seed coating becomes resistant to digestion (or a processor is needed on the forager). 30-40% also coincides with the stage at highest ‘D’ value and experience suggests this stage is associated with best fermentation and highest palatability. **USE A PROVEN ADDITIVE.**

**Barley** will be ready when the grain is the texture of soft Cheddar cheese (The supermarket stuff, not real Cheddar). At this stage the crop will have lost any green colour, if viewed from a distance, but the bottom half of the straw will probably still be green.

**Peas** will be when the pods on lowest truss of peas on the plant will be the texture of parchment and the Peas will be ‘hard rubbery’ texture. Pods further up the plant will be less developed.

Undersown crops may result in lower dry matter, but the grass can enhance the fermentation, so do not wait for the crop to be dryer and risk the Barley becoming overripe.

The advice offered in this leaflet has been prepared to the best of our ability. We cannot accept any liability as a result of action taken by growers as a consequence of this advice. Detailed recommendations should be sought from BASIS & FACTS qualified agronomists.

**Use pesticides carefully. Read the label before you buy**

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