

OSR Companion Crops

Our mixtures have been carefully created to help improve OSR crop establishment and overall performance in the early stages of development.

BATTALION

- 2 kg Berseem Clover
- 4 kg Buckwheat
- 4 kg Vetch

Sow at 10 kg/ha

BRIGADE

- 2 kg Fenugreek
- 3.5 kg Buckwheat
- 2 kg Berseem Clover

Sow at 7.5 kg/ha

BASTION

- 3 kg Fenugreek
- 2 kg Berseem Clover

Sow at 5 kg/ha



WORKING TOGETHER IN THE BATTLE AGAINST THE BEETLE

Why try companion cropping?

Growing a companion crop mixture with your oilseed rape may help deter, dilute or confuse cabbage stem flea beetle and reduce beetle damage during establishment. It will also improve soil nutrition and structure. The idea of companion cropping is not a new one. However, with neonicotinoid seed treatments no longer available, this method is now being reconsidered as an option for mitigating against crop losses.

The research surrounding companion crops is still in its early stages. However, early indications suggest that the impact of companion cropping is positive and as further research is undertaken, we will be on-hand to offer greater insight for growers.



What about the cost?

On-farm results suggest that using companion crops enables savings in other areas. The weed and pest control can be reduced, plus the use of species such as Berseem Clover and Vetch can help to reduce the rotational cost of nitrogen inputs.

About the mixtures...

BATTALION

The Berseem clover content in the mixture aids root penetration for the OSR crop and the quick vigorous growth of buckwheat should assist with weed suppression. Vetch will fix nitrogen but will need taking out with a herbicide, as it is frost tolerant.

BRIGADE

Fenugreek and Berseem clover will provide some nitrogen fixing to benefit the OSR crop and Berseem clover will aid OSR root penetration.

Buckwheat's vigorous growth will suppress weeds, potentially helping to reduce herbicide costs. This mixture should be easily killed by frosts.

BASTION

Fenugreek will help with nitrogen fixation and it is thought that the scent of the plant may confuse cabbage stem flea beetle and mask the OSR crop. Berseem clover is included as it will assist with root penetration. Both species will be easily killed by frost.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- Can be purchased with any OSR variety
- Packed separately from OSR seed
- Delivery will arrive separately from OSR seed
- All mixtures can be sown at the same time as the OSR seed is sown
- All mixtures can also be sown prior to sowing OSR seed, if this method is preferred

For more information on companion cropping please contact your local United Oilseeds Area Manager.

Please note that use of the OSR Companion Crop Mixtures and straights are solely the decision of the grower. United Oilseeds/ Hubbards Seeds accepts no responsibility for the total or partial failure of oilseed rape crops used in conjunction with the OSR Companion Crop Mixtures.