

**Companion crops aid the establishment of oilseed rape crops by protecting against flea beetle, improving soil condition and reducing weed pressure.**

Success with companion cropping led to over 5% of the UK oilseed rape area being drilled with a companion crop in 2021, and on a trajectory to be over 10% by 2023. Europe is already far in excess of these percentages including in France, where over 50% of the area is drilled with a companion crop.

Using suitable varieties is fundamental to effective use. The EnviroSeeds® companion crop range has been developed over five years, to contain only varieties rigorously tested and proven on farm. These provide truly unique and peerless products for effective companion cropping.



## SHIELDER

The complete companion crop - tried, tested and recommended by us. Provides the ultimate protection from flea beetle with 'LIFAGO' buckwheat's protective canopy and fenugreek's deterring odour, combined with nitrogen-fixing, fast-growing 'TABOR' berseem clover.

- 'LIFAGO' buckwheat provides a protective canopy to disguise the oilseed rape plants from flea beetle
- Fenugreek exudes an unpleasant odour to deter flea beetle from the oilseed rape crop
- 'TABOR' berseem clover grows rapidly to fix nitrogen and condition soil for the oilseed rape plants

Contains:

**50% 'LIFAGO' Buckwheat**  
**25% Fenugreek**  
**25% TABOR Berseem Clover**

Sowing Rate:

**10kg/ha**

Sowing Depth:

**1cm**



## BEETLE BLASTER

Beetle Blaster provides essential protection against flea beetle. 'LIFAGO' buckwheat produces a large canopy to disguise the oilseed rape plants and fenugreek produces a deterring odour.

- 'LIFAGO' buckwheat provides a protective canopy to disguise the oilseed rape plants from flea beetle
- Fenugreek exudes an unpleasant odour to deter flea beetle from the oilseed rape crop

Contains:

**70% 'LIFAGO' Buckwheat**  
**30% Fenugreek**

Sowing Rate:

**10kg/ha**

Sowing Depth:

**1cm**



## FIX AND PROTECT

Fix and Protect combines a dense, protective canopy provided by 'LIFAGO' buckwheat, with rapid nitrogen-fixing and soil conditioning from 'TABOR' berseem clover.

- 'LIFAGO' buckwheat provides a protective canopy to disguise the oilseed rape plants from flea beetle
- 'TABOR' berseem clover grows rapidly to fix nitrogen and condition soil for the oilseed rape plants

Contains:

**60% 'LIFAGO' Buckwheat**  
**40% 'TABOR' Berseem Clover**

Sowing Rate:

**10kg/ha**

Sowing Depth:

**1cm**



## BERSEEM CLOVER (*Trifolium alexandrinum*) - 'TABOR'

'**TABOR**' is the only proven 'single-cut' variety of berseem clover available in the UK. 'Single-cut' varieties do not regrow following winter-kill and are therefore the only varieties suitable for use as an oilseed rape companion crop.

- Deep taproots condition the soil for healthy root development
- Flowers attract many beneficial insects and pollinators
- Rapid growth and establishment suppresses weeds
- Extremely susceptible to frost
- '**TABOR**' can fix nitrogen from as little as eight weeks from sowing

Sowing Rate: **10kg/ha**  
Sowing Depth: **1cm**



## BUCKWHEAT (*Fagopyrum tataricum*) - 'LIFAGO'

'**LIFAGO**' buckwheat's vigorous growth provides the essential protective canopy from flea beetle quicker than standard buckwheat ('*Fagopyrum esculentum*') varieties. A lower thousand grain weight also provides a higher plant population from the comparable sowing rate.

- Provides a dense, protective canopy to disguise the oilseed rape plants
- Grows vigorously to suppress weeds
- Extremely susceptible to frost
- Scavenges phosphates from the soil
- Nectar-rich flowers provide food for pollinators

Sowing Rate: **10kg/ha**  
Sowing Depth: **1cm**



## FENUGREEK (*Trigonella foenum-graecum*)

Fenugreek provides an additional layer of protection for the oilseed rape crop by exuding an unpleasant odour to deter flea beetle. Fenugreek is most suited to being utilised in a mixture such as Shielder or Beetle Blaster (see page 10).

- Natural odour deters flea beetle from the oilseed rape crop
- Stands later into the autumn than '**LIFAGO**' buckwheat and '**TABOR**' berseem clover
- Best used in conjunction with other species

Sowing Rate: **10kg/ha**  
Sowing Depth: **1cm**



## PURPLE VETCH (*Vicia atropurpurea*) - 'BINGO'

'**BINGO**' purple vetch grows more vigorously and is more susceptible to frost than common vetch (*Vicia sativa*), and therefore suitable for use in oilseed rape companion crops. A lower thousand grain weight also provides a higher plant population from the comparable sowing rate.

- Rapid growth and establishment suppresses weeds
- Conditions soil and fixes nitrogen
- Very susceptible to frost
- Best used in conjunction with other species or mixes

Sowing Rate: **10kg/ha**  
Sowing Depth: **1cm**