

Catch crop kept over winter

Goal	Improve habitat and forage for wild fauna
Target group	Farmers who grow any kind of cereal crops
Description of the measure	<p>As a retreat, catch crops that are left over winter are particularly important for wild animals. If the catch crop which should be kept over winter is sown early in the year (in July) then they can flower. This makes the measure particularly interesting for insects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sowing of catch crops e.g. Mustard, Phacelia, summer rape, summer vetch which are likely to freeze off. They will be damaged with the first frost, but the plant remains in the field and guarantee easy soil cultivation in spring.
Suitable sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total farm area
How a good implementation looks like	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catch crop kept over winter
Effects on biodiversity (ecosystems, species, soil biodiversity)	 <p>The plant left overs provide the hare in winter cover and retreat possibilities.</p>
	 <p>Promotion of insects through a food supply during the flowering phase. Catch crops kept over winter additionally provides insects room to overwinter.</p>
	 <p>Catch crops kept over winter provide food and shelter in winter for field birds such as winter guests and finches.</p>
Other positive effects/benefit for the farmer	
Indicator/key data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total size of area (ha) kept with catch crops over winter
Risk and further recommendations	

Timeframe (When to start a measure and anticipated time for implementation)	When to start: with the cultivation of catch crop Anticipated time for implementation: until next year spring (end of March), at least end of February
Additional special resources/equipment/skills needed	
Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measure developed and tested in the project LIFE Food & Biodiversity

Further information: [Knowledge Pool](#)

This Action Fact Sheet belongs to the training package for advisors of standard organisations and companies and was developed within the project LIFE Food & Biodiversity (Biodiversity in Standards and Labels of for the Food Industry). The main objective of the project is to improve the biodiversity performance of standards and sourcing requirements in the food industry by helping standard organisations to integrate efficient biodiversity criteria into their schemes and motivating food processing companies and retailers to include comprehensive biodiversity criteria into their sourcing guidelines.

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