

Cereal strips kept over winter

Goal	Improve habitat and forage for wild fauna
Target group	Farmers who grow any kind of cereal crop
Description of the measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep cereal strips on parts of the plot at least until end of February. The width of a strip may be 6–25 m.
Suitable sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole farm site
How a good implementation looks like	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cereal strip of at least 6 m width kept over winter
Effects on biodiversity (ecosystems, species, soil biodiversity)	 <p>Small-scale, not harvested cereal provides habitat and food for overwintering and granivorous birds.</p>
	 <p>Late-flowering wild herbs are able to produce seeds for reproduction.</p>
Other positive effects/benefit for the farmer	<p>This measure does not interfere in the usual praxis of the farmer during cropping period, e.g. no abandonment of fertilization/pesticide use is required.</p> <p>Because of its stripe-shape those areas may also contribute as step-stone between different biotope islands.</p>
Indicator/key data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total size of area (ha) with cereal kept over winter
Risk and further recommendations	<p>As barley, triticale and rye are likely to sprout, they are less suitable for this measure.</p> <p>Abandonment of fertilizer is advisable in order to improve the stability of stems.</p>
Timeframe (When to start a measure and anticipated time for implementation)	<p>Stripes shall be kept at least until end of February, ideally end of March in order to provide reliable habitat to overwintering wildlife.</p>

Additional special resources/ equipment/ skills needed	None
Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ www.landwirtschaft-artenvielfalt.de

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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