

High cut in clover grass

Goal	Establishment of additional foraging- and breeding habitat	
Short description of the measure	<p>In cultivation of legume-grass-mixtures, clover or Lucerne:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High cut of clover grass on at least 14 cm, if possible on the whole area. High cut already with early mowing in may <p>As less management as possible</p>	
Timeframe (When to start a measure and anticipated time for implementation)	When to start: with first mowing	
How auditors can assess if the measure has been implemented in a good quality?	 <p>Pic. 1: The area with high cut should have a minimal height of 14 cm.</p>	
Additional information the auditor need for verification (if any)	The implementation will only be possible to verify at certain time after mowing	
Effects on biodiversity (ecosystems, species, soil biodiversity)	 <p>Clover grass sites are a favorable breeding habitat for field birds such as skylark or corn bunting. Additional measures to increase the breeding success are advisable (e.g. distance to vertical structures...)</p> <p>Because of the high cut less nesting sites get destroyed</p> <p>In case of high cut already early in the year field birds are able to start earlier with the second breed</p>	
	 <p>Support for insects: Lucerne and red clover are valuable nectar plants for bees, bumblebees and butterflies. Grasshoppers and other insects benefit from improved reproduction success in perennial clover grass due to missing tillage</p> <p>Insects such as grasshoppers are protected from dehydration after mowing</p>	

	 <p>High cut in clover grass provides young hare with refuge</p>
Indicator/key data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of area where clover grass is cut high in relation to the total area cultivated with clover grass.
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.landwirtschaft-artenvielfalt.de NABU, Fact Sheets – Feldvögel, Kulturfolger der Landwirtschaft Vögel der Agrarlandschaft, NABU 2004 Stiftung Rheinische Kulturlandschaft, DBU: Abschlussbericht Maßnahmen- und Artensteckbriefe zur Förderung der Vielfalt typischer Arten und Lebensräume der Agrarlandschaften, 2018

Further information: Knowledge Pool

This Action Fact Sheet belongs to the training package for auditors 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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