

Not managed strip in clover grass

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| Goal | Establishment of additional foraging- and breeding habitat |
| Short description of the measure | In cultivation of legume-grass-mixtures, clover or Lucerne: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No mowing on parts or in strips on 3–20 % of the plot ▪ At least 5 m width; better 10 m |
| Timeframe (When to start a measure and anticipated time for implementation) | Depending on the target species this measure needs to be applied at different times during the year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grasshoppers in summer ▪ Lesser spotted eagle and field birds from May to June ▪ Amphibians from July to end of September |
| How auditors can assess if the measure has been implemented in a good quality? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No mowing on parts or in strips on 3–20 % of the plot ▪ At least 5 m width <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> |
| 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) | <div style="display: flex;"> <div style="flex: 1;">  </div> <div style="flex: 2;"> <p>Clover grass sites are a favourable 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>Increase of permanent forage for raptors such as red kite and lesser spotted eagle.</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="flex: 1;">  </div> <div style="flex: 2;"> <p>Support of 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> </div> </div> |

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| | <p>Insects such as grasshoppers are protected from dehydration after mowing.</p> <p>Insects will benefit more from this measure if the not managed strip will be next to bushes, hedges or other woody elements.</p> |
| |  <p>High cut in clover grass is valuable forage for hare.</p> <p>It also protects against predators and sun.</p> |
| Indicator/key data | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total share of area where clover grass remains unmanaged 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 |

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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