

GRASS LEYS FOR FREE RANGE HEN PADDOCKS

'Grass can be an ideal area for free range hens but the sward should provide good ground cover and a very stable, robust pasture.'



Free range paddocks requirements:-

- Short growing, hardwearing grass species will provide good ground cover
- The height of the pasture is important, Chickens prefer foraging a pasture no higher than three to five inches.
- If too tall the carbon levels in the grass leaves are higher and are less digestible to chickens
- Too tall a sward, when wet will leave wet legs and bottom feathers, making eggs which are subsequently laid wet and dirty.
- Over foraging a sward below two inches will prevent regrowth

Topgrass Free Range Poultry Paddock Mix

(Recommended sowing rate 16-20kg / Acre)

- **10% LATE DIPLOID PERENNIAL RYEGRASS** – Provides lush grass
- **30% AMENITY DWARF PERENNIAL RYEGRASS** – Good regrowth, hard wearing.
- **58% STRONG CREEPING RED FESCUE** – Stoloniferous plant. Will grow horizontally along the ground seeking out light especially where bare patches appear
- **2% WHITE CLOVER** – Will add flowering capacity to the ground attracting insects. Will also create nitrogen fixation.

For further information on Grass Seed Mixtures please contact your local ForFarmers Poultry Specialist or call the Forage customer service team on **0330 6781200** info.forage@forfarmers.eu

