

## OVER-SOWING

- Do not over-sow old 'butty' swards with a low content of perennial ryegrass – white clover will not establish well in these.
- Control weeds before over-sowing white clover as weed control options afterwards are more limited. Some herbicides have a residue of up to 4 months – always check the residual time on the label of the product or seek advice on a suitable weed control product.
- Take a representative soil sample for P, K and pH analysis and correct soil fertility prior to over-sowing. Optimum soil fertility when over-sowing will help increase the chances of success.
- White clover seed can be broadcast onto the sward or stitched in using a suitable machine.
- If broadcasting with a fertiliser spreader:
  - o Mix clover seed with 0:7:30 fertiliser and only add white clover to the spreader when you are in the field to avoid white clover settling at the base of the spreader
  - o Do a maximum of 1 ha at a time (to avoid seed settling) and spread in 2 directions across the field.
- Stitching in white clover seed with a drill/harrow ensures better seed to soil contact. Stitching must be used for oversowing sheep grazed swards due to the denser nature of swards
- Over-sow directly after grazing ( $\leq 4$  cm post-grazing sward height) or after cutting the paddock for surplus bales – ideally only over-sow three to four paddocks at a time.
- Sow at a rate of 4.0 to 6.0 kg of white clover seed/ha.
- Soil contact post over-sowing is one of the most crucial factors affecting germination
  - o Roll paddocks post-sowing to ensure soil contact
  - o Apply watery slurry (if available) – ideally around 2000 gallons/ac
- Reduce N fertiliser post over-sowing for one to two rotations to reduce grass growth.

## POST-SOWING MANAGEMENT – FULL RESEED OR OVER-SOWING

- Graze as soon as the new plants are strong enough to withstand grazing. Early grazing is important to allow light to the base of the plant to encourage stolon development
- The first grazing of a new reseed can be completed at a pregrazing yield of 600 to 1000 kg DM/ha
- Graze swards tight for at least the first three grazings postsowing, keeping pre-grazing herbage mass  $<1,100$  kg DM/ha and graze swards to  $\leq 4$  cm. This allows light to penetrate to the base of the sward, which is essential for white clover establishment.
- Freshly reseeded or over-sown swards should not be closed for silage in their first year of production as the shading effect of heavy covers results in poor white clover establishment and an open sward which is liable to weed ingress.
- If possible, reseeded or over-sown swards should be closed later in the autumn to avoid carrying heavy covers over the winter period.

