

Not managed strip in clover grass

Goal

Establishment of additional foraging- and breeding habitat

Short description of the measure

In cultivation of legume-grass-mixtures, clover or Lucerne:

- No mowing on parts or in strips on 3–20 % of the plot
- At least 5m width; better 10 m



Quality elements of soundly implemented biodiversity measures

- No mowing on parts or in strips on 3–20 % of the plot
- At least 5m width

Effects on biodiversity

(ecosystems, species, soil biodiversity)



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...).

Increase of permanent forage for raptors such as red kite and lesser spotted eagle.



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.

Insects such as grasshoppers are protected from dehydration after mowing.

Insects will be benefit more from this measure if the not managed strip will be next to bushes, hedges or other woody elements.



High cut in clover grass is valuable forage for **hare**.

It also protects against predators and sun.

Other positive effects/benefit for the farmer	This measure is included in the agri-environmental scheme of the EU and may be subsidized.
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.
Reference	<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 product and quality managers of 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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