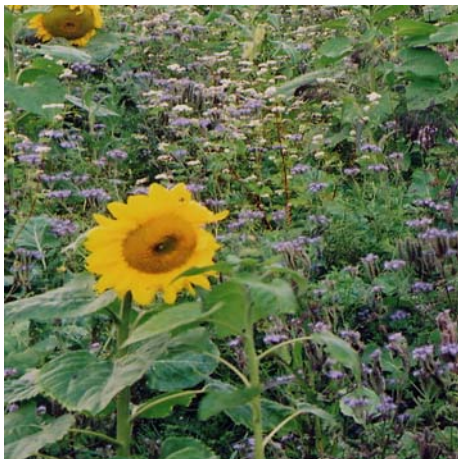


## ELS and Game Cover Update from Grainfarmers UAP Ltd

Since the new Entry Level Scheme was launched last year, over 60,000 application packs have been issued, but only 13,500 agreements signed. I would strongly recommend that you enter the scheme at the first possible opportunity. The money that is available has been taken off you in one hand through modulation, so with a days work in the office, grab it back with the other, otherwise you are missing out on a golden opportunity to enhance your farm income.



For growers that have entering the ELS scheme and also have a shoot on their farm, there are many options available to them to enhance their shoot and gain the essential points needed. By growing a suitable Wild Bird Mixture, such as the Setter or the Pro-Driver mixture from the Hi-Bird range, this will produce a fantastic cover crop, but will also comply with all the requirements under ELS and will provide an excellent habitat for songbirds. Plus this will achieve 450 points/ Ha (or 85 points if grown on set aside land). There are restrictions in plot size however. As well as this, Pollen and Nectar mixtures create excellent foraging areas for young chicks, and a grass margin consisting of tussock forming grasses make ideal nesting areas.

In my opinion dwarf sorghum is going to become the most Popular choice of game cover for this season. It makes an ideal replacement for kale, which can be hard to establish and is vulnerable to flea beetle attacks. It will remain standing season long and is very easy to grow under the right conditions. But sorghum must not be planted too early. Soil temperatures must reach 15°C for three consecutive days before planting (mid to late May). But please don't grow sorghum to far north and I would suggest no further north than the M62.



If you would like any further information or for a copy of our comprehensive sowing guides on ELS or game cover crops, please contact:

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