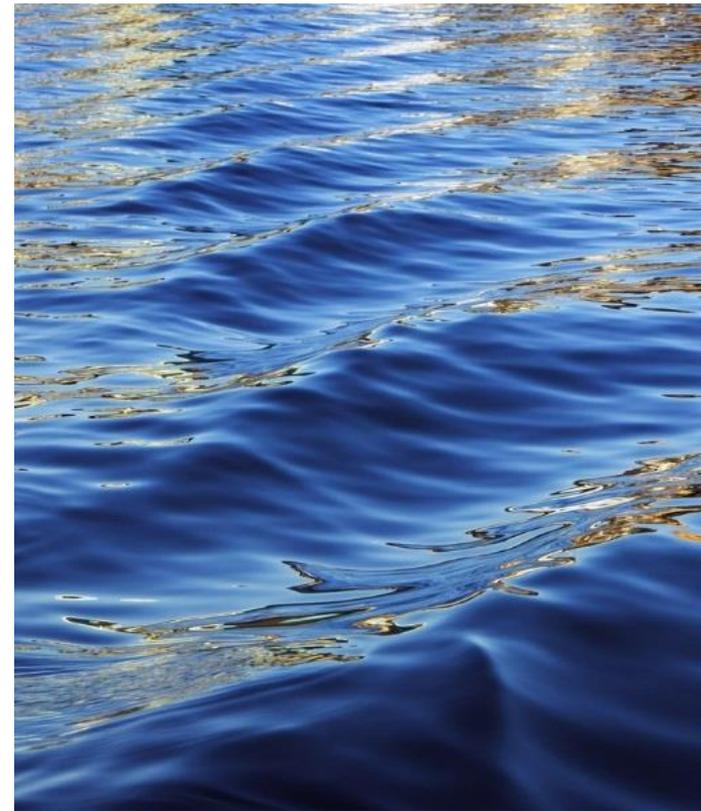




Wild Bird Cover



National Rural Network



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Wild bird cover is a GLAS action where farmers plant cereals and kale to support birds whose habitat has been compromised by farming.

Bees, insects, birds and wild small mammal populations are in decline because of the destruction of their natural habitat as a result of modern farming practices. Wild bird cover is a GLAS action whereby farmers cultivate the plants which support native flora and fauna.

Seed-eating birds are in decline because of intensive farming and crop specialisation, which deprives them of the variety that they need in their diet.

Seed-eating birds like the yellowhammer need large cereal seeds and the linnet needs small seeds, such as linseed or kale.



Image Source: NRN

The GLAS payment is €900 per hectare per annum. Approximately 11,000 farmers choose the Wild Bird Cover option on their GLAS plans, planting close to 20,000Ha of Wild Bird Cover.

Wild Bird Cover Cereal option



↑
Summer
Winter
↓



The flowers in wild bird cover attract insects. Birds and bats feed on the insects and worms. Wild bird cover provides cover for small mammals and birds of prey feed on those small animals.

Oats & Linseed Wild Bird Cover mix is to be re-sown annually by the 31st May each year. The Wild Bird cover area must be shockproof fenced although livestock can enter the Wild Bird Cover area from the 15th of March to help clear the area of trash before the mix is re-sown before the 31st of May

Kale

Another Wild Bird Cover planting option under GLAS is planting a crop of Kale bi-annually along with a annual cereal option.

The wild bird cover must be planted by 31st May each year except for Kale which is planted every 2 years and left in situ until March 15.

Year	Half Plot	Half Plot
1	Kale Yr 1	Cereal
2	Kale Yr 2	Cereal
3	Cereal	Kale Yr 1
4	Cereal	Kale Yr 2
5	Kale Yr 1	Cereal

Image source: Teagasc



Kale is vegetative in year 1

Image source: Teagasc



Kale flowers and produces seed in year 2

Image Source: Teagasc



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