



# GREEN FLASH

Landscape news from the grass seed specialists

## Welcome

The dynamic duo of specialist grass seed agent **RIGBY TAYLOR** and leading seed breeder **TOP GREEN** continues as they create new groundbreaking cultivars to produce top results.

Using these in dedicated mixtures Rigby Taylor addresses environmental concerns helping landscapers to develop natural turf surfaces which are more sustainable.

Particular attention has been paid to introducing cultivars which:

- ➔ establish more quickly
- ➔ can cope with drought and waterlogged conditions
- ➔ are more disease tolerant
- ➔ provide good year-round colour
- ➔ will develop well in lower temperatures
- ➔ are harder wearing
- ➔ require less cutting
- ➔ need less watering



Rigby Taylor is a leading supplier of grass seed, fertilizers, chemicals, soil conditioners, top dressings, line marking products, sports equipment and support services for the construction, maintenance and improvement of landscape, sports and other amenity areas.

Freephone  
0800 424 919

## How to reduce your carbon footprint

TACKLING the issue of carbon emissions has been a vital role for Rigby Taylor and Top Green and significant advances have been made.

They have carried out extensive trials in France to establish which grass species fix and capture most carbon. "We had expected this information to be widely available but it was not," says Brian Robinson of Rigby Taylor. "As a result we employed an independent laboratory to carry out detailed trials at Les Alleuds."

Three-year-old grass plots containing different cultivars were used to measure how much carbon had been captured over that period compared to adjacent fallow land. Stephen Alderton of Top Green says: "From this we established which

species were best at carbon capture and calculated which associated mixtures are best to use."

Going one step beyond, to help specifiers and landscapers the company has developed a logo to demonstrate the CO<sub>2</sub> capture associated with various cultivars.

### Did you know?

With evidence of climate change and a concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere projections over the next few decades are:

- Temperatures could rise by 4deg Centigrade in the south east
- In the rest of the country by 3 to 3.5deg C
- Earlier springs and later summers with hotter, and sometimes very hot,

summer days

- Rainfall will be concentrated into heavy downpours with a major risk of flooding.

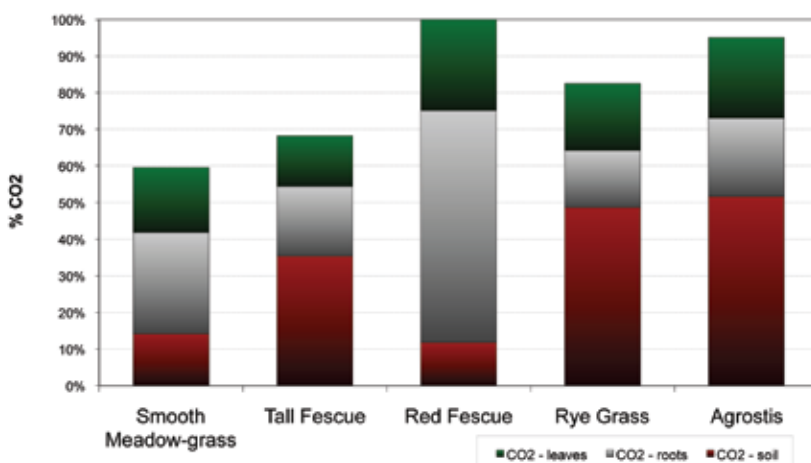
### Effects of change

- Vegetation will increase by about 30 per cent, which means grass cutting will need to increase in proportion
- Less nitrogen in the soil and a decrease in soil structure could lead to an increased danger of soil erosion.

### Making cuts – a solution:

- If we all cut our grass once less a year a lot of fuel would be saved.
- Grass seed mixtures now available from Rigby Taylor help in this vital issue while still providing high presentation levels.

CO<sub>2</sub> Capture in the plant and soil Sequestration



### Did you know?

According to recent research:

**A patch of grassland of 10 square metres has the potential to absorb 11 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.**

### Benefits of top grass seed

- ✓ Wear tolerance
- ✓ Tough plant tissues
- ✓ Slow re-growth
- ✓ Good shoot density
- ✓ Leaf fineness
- ✓ Disease resistance



## Attract birds and bees with new urban flower power



*Honey mix attracts wildlife to urban areas*

SURE TO ATTRACT local authorities, sports providers and landscapers, Top Green and Rigby Taylor are revolutionising the planting of urban flower areas with the introduction of a new innovative range of stunning flower mixtures in 2010.

Trials are currently taking place at key locations in the UK and Stephen Alderton of Top Green explains: "This

is a first within the industry. These new sensational flower mixtures are not a wildflower planting but one which will flourish well within the urban type of landscape and meet environmental and financial criteria."

With serious concerns about declining wildlife populations from sparrows to bumblebees it is vital to provide a natural haven

for animals and insects throughout the land. And these flower mixes, either on their own or with a sustainable grass underlay, provide a wonderful solution.

Adding an extra dimension to the existing popular range of wildflower mixtures already supplied by Rigby Taylor, these latest flowers prove it is possible to achieve horticultural excellence and impact without using high maintenance methods.

And these longer flowering plants with their diversity of textures and forms provide a fitting and interesting landscape which the public together with members of sports clubs can appreciate and enjoy.

• **A catalogue featuring these sensational new low-maintenance flower mixes will be available in 2010. For further information please contact Brian Robinson or Stephen Denton (below).**

### Did you know?

HONEYBEE decline has reached serious levels with one-third of bee stocks lost last year in the UK alone.

Pollination is the important and tireless work of bees and our food industry and vegetable plots are lost without them.

Bees are estimated to be worth £200m a year to the economy for their vital role in pollinating many crops.

#### New urban flower mixtures - a solution:

Flowers which particularly appeal to honeybees, insects and birds are included in the new urban flower mixtures available from Rigby Taylor.

Working together we all need to help sustain the delicate balance of our valuable wildlife and insect populations.

## Grass helping to cool European city centres

IN EUROPE trams are very popular for moving large numbers of people around leading city centres and this includes Lyon in France.

In Angers too a good tram system is being built and here in the UK Edinburgh is considering introducing a tram system.

And right down the middle of these continental thoroughfares grass is being used to green up city centres and help cool temperatures.

This novel use of turf is proving extremely popular with travellers and a special mower tram is used to keep the grass looking great.



*Newly planted green tramways at Lyon in France*

## STRIKING SEEDS FOR AIRPORTS



*Successful trials at RAF Cudrose*

FOLLOWING the sowing of a tall fescue grass seed mix on trial plots at RAF Cudrose initial results show a marked reduction in bird activity and frequency of cut - by up to 40 per cent.

Continuously monitored throughout 2008 and 2009 results demonstrate that the density of the tall fescues has also reduced the invasion of moss during wet periods, which in normal

circumstances would encourage additional bird population.

The intention is to expand this programme and undertake further monitoring during 2010.

The aim is to formulate an accurate mixture which meets the airfield demands for bird control while reducing grass cutting operations and undesirable leaf producing grasses and flora.

## YOUR CONTACTS

• **Brian Robinson** on 01204 677770 email: b.robinson@rigbytaylor.com • **Stephen Denton** on 07770 762819 email: s.denton@rigbytaylor.com

• **HEAD OFFICE:** Rigby Taylor House, Crown Lane, Horwich, Bolton BL6 5HP. Tel 01204 677777 • **REGIONAL OFFICES:** SOUTH: Guildford, Surrey (01483 446900) SCOTLAND: Newbridge, Midlothian (0131 333 3344) • **Email for all inquiries:** sales@rigbytaylor.com • **FREEPHONE** 0800 424919

