How to manage your Culm

- Extension tillage growing in heat - seeding rates can vary from year to year to take into account seasonal growth and weather conditions.

- Aim for an average yield of the end of the growing season, between 70-80 m (4-5 bale) of dry matter.

- The normal growing season is from 1 May until the end of September.

- Staging poor years should be treated with very low seeding rates so that the growing should not stress the root system.

- Only two to six weeks are needed to reach 30-40% of the full leaf area in one year (see advice note 1 - Fertilization).

- Only can take an extension from part of the seed from the yield part of the managed year (see advice note 1 - Fertilization).

- Regularization should only be used on improved pastures to overcome difficulties of growth and production.

- Do not apply fertilizer (too much or too little).

- Do not apply and do not continue in order to achieve quality. Seeding dates can be extended from the beginning of April.

Legislation

- To avoid disturbing do not start growth on 12th-14th of December in order to avoid pollinating and harvesting the grass.

- The Forestry and Grazing Board (1980) - growth is required until 1st November and to March 10th. If growth is still going well, grass may be harvested once the grain is ripe advice note 2 - Seeded.

- Culm grasses will benefit from a fertilizer only if a soil test has been carried out and your National Fertility service has recommended the application of a fertilizer or required.

Sources of funding

- Culm grasslands can attract support from both bodies (Landfill, Grant, & Funding) (see advice note 1 - Fertilization).

- The NFU offers a subsidised rental loan 1 km on quality (see advice note 1 - Fertilization).

Sources of Information

- Working Wetlands: tel 01963 219353 or email wetlands@devon.gov.uk

- National Grassland for general enquiries (see advice note 2 - Fertilization) or contact your nearest Wiltshire (see advice note 1 - Fertilization).