

Greening Checklist for 2026 Ecological Focus Areas: Fallow Land



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Fallow are areas of arable land that will benefit wildlife.

Answer each question below with a **yes**, **no** or **n/a** to help check if you are complying with the rules for the 2026 scheme year. If the rules are applicable to you, and you are compliant, your answers to the questions should be yes.



EFA fallow (examples of natural regeneration and a wild flower mix)

- Is the land you have used to support EFA fallow:
 - On your holding and on a claimed Basic Payment Scheme eligible agricultural parcel?
 - On arable land, i.e. been fallow or an arable crop (including temporary grass) in the previous year?
 - A minimum of 0.01 hectares in size?
 - Clearly identifiable and distinguishable on the ground from 15th January to 15th July inclusive?
- Have you prepared an EFA map, detailing the location and size of your EFA fallow land?
- Have you controlled injurious weeds, invasive weeds and certain other weed species by spot herbicide application or hand roguing?
- You have **not** undertaken the following activities on your EFA fallow between 15th January to 15th July inclusive:
 - Agricultural production, including use of the land to store materials, turning of machinery and for access (except occasional use)?
 - New drainage schemes?
 - Changed the land cover with the exception of establishing a diverse mix temporary grassland (TGRS), wild flower, wild bird seed mix or a soil conditioning mix? See full scheme guidance for approved species and mixtures.

– Topped the land?

– Applied fertiliser, except to aid the establishment of a diverse mix of temporary grass, wild flower, wild bird seed mix or a soil conditioning mix?

– Applied pesticides, except by spot herbicide application for injurious, invasive and other weed species?

Note: FYM can temporarily be stored on EFA fallow for application in the field. Field drains can be maintained (i.e. inspect pits, etc and replace pipes or tiles where existing bursts have been identified) in the period 15th January to 15th March. In exceptional cases and subject to prior approval, field drains can be maintained in the period 15th March to 15th July.

The detail contained within this information note represents a summary of the key scheme requirements. To ensure compliance with all aspects of the scheme, please refer to the full scheme guidance which is available at: www.ruralpayments.org/topics/all-schemes/basic-payment-scheme/basic-payment-scheme-full-guidance/greening---bps/greening-guidance-2026/