

Greening Checklist for 2026

Ecological Focus Areas:

Nitrogen-Fixing Crops



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The decomposition of nitrogen-fixing crops releases stored nitrogen, increasing the total nitrogen in the soil, making it available for the following crops.



EFA nitrogen-fixing crop

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.

- Is the land you have used to support EFA nitrogen-fixing crops
 - On your holding and on a claimed Basic Payment Scheme eligible agricultural parcel?
 - On arable land?
 - A minimum of 0.01 hectares in size?
 - Clearly identifiable and distinguishable on the ground?
- Have you prepared an EFA map, detailing the location and size of your EFA nitrogen-fixing crops?
- Have you grown two or more of the following nitrogen-fixing crops: alfalfa, beans, birdsfoot trefoil, chickpea, red clover, white clover, lentil, lupin, peas, vetch, alsike clover, balansa clover, berseem clover, sweet clover, fenugreek?
- If EFA nitrogen fixing crops have been grown as a mixture with other crops, is the nitrogen fixing crop species predominant by weight of seed?
- Is your main nitrogen-fixing crop less than 75% of the total area of nitrogen-fixing crops claimed as EFA?
- Are all your EFA nitrogen-fixing crops surrounded by a claimed EFA margin?
- You have **not** applied insecticide to the EFA nitrogen fixing-crop.

Note: The field margin must meet the EFA margin rules.

Note: You are allowed to apply herbicide to control grass weeds, and you are now allowed to apply fungicide following advice from an agronomist.

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/