

Greening Key Dates

2026



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Do you know your Greening dates?

This document highlights the key Greening dates that farmers who apply to the Basic Payment Scheme need to know. Further information on the Greening requirements can be found at:

<https://www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/all-schemes/basic-payment-scheme>

January

- 1st Start of compliance with Greening (Permanent Grassland and Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs)).
- 15th Start of the EFA fallow period.

March

- 1st Do not trim EFA hedges from this date, expect for road safety reasons.
- 31st Laying of EFA hedges can be carried out until this date

May

- 15th A newly planted EFA hedge must be established by this date.

July

- 1st In the year of establishment of the EFA Herb and Legume-Rich Pasture does not have to be in place on 1st January but should be established by 1st July.
- 15th End of EFA fallow period.
- 15th EFA margins can be cut (including silage or hay) after this date.
- 15th EFA margins that do not contain a watercourse or are not adjacent to a watercourse can be grazed after this date.

November

- 1st EFA green cover must be established by this date.

December

- 1st Hedge trimming can commence after this date.
- 31st End date for retention of EFA catch crop.
- 31st End date for retention of EFA green cover.
- 31st End of compliance with Greening (Permanent Grassland and Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs)).