

Sandhutton Growers Ltd T/A



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY 2012

‘It is Sandhutton Growers Ltd policy to carry out its activities with emphasis on protecting the environment with due regard to the wildlife and landscape features within its control’

Sandhutton Growers Ltd;

- meet all regulatory and legislative requirements in particular those in place to protect and enhance water, soil and air
- are LEAF members and use the LEAF audit as a method of reviewing and assessing the farms environmental performance on a yearly basis
- efficiently manage the land available in order to grow as much product as possible to help reduce the carbon emissions resulting from the transport bringing product in from around the world
- seek advice and direction from external agencies where necessary, to minimise adverse environmental effects both locally and globally

Sandhutton Growers Ltd will try to minimise all adverse effects on the environment through implementing Integrated Farm Management (IFM) practices;

- with the use of biological control agents within our protected crops, reducing dependence on artificial pesticides
- only using pesticides as a last resort when other methods are found to be insufficient or ineffective
- by reducing the ‘green bridge’ effect through immediate incorporation of crop residues
- by following their Crop Protection Policy

Sandhutton Growers Ltd are aware of how important soil is to their business and therefore take care to continually maintain and improve its structure and content through implementing IFM techniques:

- Awareness and understanding of the sandy soil type helps to manage potential erosion risks through adapting our cultivation methods
- Spring cultivations are adopted where possible to ensure crop root systems are in place over the winter months to maintain soil structure
- Incorporation of post harvest vegetation is used to improve soil nutrition and organic matter to help reduce the need for artificial applications
- Nutrient availability of every field is calculated through DEFRA’s RB209 document in accordance with Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) and IFM

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Pre-Req.	Susie Wilkinson	Philip Dodd	30.11.2011	2	30.11.2012
Reason for amendment: Annual review					

- Calianti Mustard is used as a non-chemical soil fumigant to help prevent the need for herbicides in the subsequent crops. It also helps to maintain soil structure during winter months and reintroduces nutrition once broken down in the soil
- Crop residues are flailed before being incorporation in the soil to aid breakdown, speeding up the natural mineralisation process for production of nutrients
- Sub-soiling is carried out on the land after production has finished to reduce compaction and improve aeration of the soil. This encourages more efficient and effective mineralisation of incorporated vegetation

Water is the most important resource on the planet. We therefore take every opportunity to minimise wastage while helping to protect its quality;

- by monitoring our use of irrigation to reduce water consumption
- by regularly sampling water from our supplies to ensure that we are conforming with legislation and to enable us to help minimise, or ideally eradicate, pollution as a result of our business practices

To help minimise pollution of the environment;

- every recycling opportunity is used in order to reduce our landfill waste. All recyclable packaging and farm waste is collected by registered contractors
- all waste is measured and recorded to keep track of wastage levels, including packaging and green waste
- risk assessments of potential pollution routes are carried out to avoid adverse effects on all environmental media i.e. Air, Water and Soil
- all vehicles are regularly serviced and fuel consumption monitored
- consideration is given to the energy efficiency of potential new equipment before purchase, helping to reduce our overall energy consumption
- energy audits are carried out annually to identify areas of unnecessary consumption and inefficiency

Sandhutton Growers Ltd have a responsibility to the environment in which it works. Therefore certain practices are put in place to ensure that as little damage as possible is caused to wildlife and the environment to aid the conservation of the area:

- When pesticides are found to be necessary, buffer zones around hedges and areas of wildlife habitat are adhered to.
- Minimal work is done on the perennial crops out of the growing season to encourage wildlife and to provide nesting sites in the spring
- Hedges are maintained within DEFRA guidelines so as not to disturb nesting birds in the spring. Nesting sites found around the site are left untouched often with buffer zones
- Communication to staff regarding habitats on the farm and what can be done to preserve and enhance them, helps with the overall conservation aim
- Areas are taken out of production and planted with wild flower/grass mixes to encourage wildlife habitats on the farm whilst also encouraging beneficial insects for our own crop protection
- All aspects of our Whole Farm Conservation Plan are to be adhered to and implemented in order to meet our vision for conservation in the future

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