

DLF EDINBURGH

DLF Trifolium has opened a new, state-of-the-art, mixing and distribution centre just outside Edinburgh. At £3million, this is the largest investment in grass mixing ever seen in the UK. The new 4,000m² site will produce all the forage grass mixtures the company sells, and has the capacity to handle up to half of the 11,000 tonnes of forage grass and clover seeds sown annually across the UK.

Bespoke automated equipment has been designed to select individual varieties from 48 raw material holding bins, then mixes, packs, treat, labels and palletises at the rate of one mixture batch every twelve minutes. As well as 500 standard, pre-planned mixtures, up to 3,000 'special mixes' will be formulated to meet specific customer requirements. A total of 13,500 consignments will be dispatched each year.

With the capacity to handle 5,500 tonnes of mixtures and straights repacking per annum, the plant will run 24/7 during periods of peak demand in spring and late summer/autumn. Situated close to major road links orders will continue to be delivered via the company's existing and highly regarded priority carrier network onto farms throughout the UK.

The UK and Ireland is one of the biggest mixture markets in Europe and this investment demonstrates a level of commitment to the market that is unmatched by any other competitor.

Tim Kerridge, Agricultural Sales Director for DLF-Trifolium in the UK agrees there is a strong outlook for grass. "We believe forage crops will play an increasing role within UK farming, as livestock farmers strive to produce more milk and meat from home-grown feed. They know that reseeded pastures with new, higher yielding, better quality varieties of grass and clover will boost grassland productivity and animal output, whilst reducing their input costs – so we see demand for grass seed rising. Our new mixing plant will allow us to cater to the very specific demands of all our customers – and do so more quickly and efficiently than has ever been possible by anyone before."