



A Very Different Kind of Summer !

Back in May we wrote about a season flying along.

Two months on.....the story has turned on its head — and the ground has stopped moving.

It has been about as dry a July as most of us can remember. Rainfall across most of the UK has run at a tiny fraction of the monthly average, reservoirs are low and hosepipe bans have spread across much of the country. On farm the picture is simpler: grass has effectively stopped growing. Grazing covers that looked comfortable in early June have thinned right out, and second and third cuts that should be bulking up are standing still.

When growth stalls, the instinct is to reach for the spreader. This year, resist it. Nitrogen only works when the plant is actively growing and taking it up, put it onto bone dry ground and there's nothing there to use it. At best it sits and waits; at worst you risk scorch on already-stressed swards and lose some of it before it's ever used. Sulphur is the same. Holding your nutrition back until real rain returns isn't doing nothing, it's spending your inputs when they'll actually pay.

What is worth doing now is forage planning. An early first cut means many farms banked decent silage back in May, and that buffer looks more valuable by the week. Work out honestly what's in the clamp against what you'll need, and don't let a dry August catch you out.

And be ready to move when the weather breaks. When rain hits warm soils grass can flush quickly, and that's the moment your nitrogen and sulphur earn their keep, rebuilding covers and topping up silage stocks. The farms that come out of this best won't be the ones who spread through the drought; they'll be the ones who held their nerve and were set to respond the day it turned.



Product Spotlight:

SoilBoost Bio

In a summer like this, the case for looking after your soil's biology has rarely been clearer.

SoilBoost Bio supports soil biology and nutrient cycling in grassland systems, combining humic substances, calcium, sulphur, magnesium and trace elements with seaweed and readily available carbon. Together these feed the microbial life that breaks down organic matter, releases tied-up nutrients and binds soil into a stable, well-structured crumb. It's especially useful after slurry or FYM — and a soil in good heart holds moisture and recovers faster once rain returns.

- Supports soil biology & nutrient cycling
- Humic substances, seaweed & carbon sources
- Calcium, sulphur, magnesium & trace elements
- Ideal after slurry or FYM
- Spring or autumn, ~500 kg/ha



About SoilBoost Bio



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Show Spotlight

First Year at Groundswell — A Natural Fit

This summer marked HumberPalmers' first year at Groundswell, the regenerative agriculture show at Lannock Farm in Hertfordshire, itself celebrating ten years in 2026. In truth it felt less like a new venture and more like turning up somewhere we should have been all along.

Groundswell has become the natural home for farmers thinking hard about soil biology, organic matter and doing more with less, a room full of people asking the questions we've built our fertiliser around for decades! Long before "regenerative" became the word everyone reached for, our approach rested on the same idea: healthy, active soil does the real work, and a good fertiliser should get more from every input rather than simply piling more on. It's why humates sit at the foundation of every grade we make, feeding soil biology and unlocking nutrients already in the ground; why our nitrogen is protected against volatilisation, so more stays where you put it; and why so many customers find they can lean less on bought-in mineral supplements once the soil is doing its job.

A real highlight was our own Sara sitting down with Wolfe Bentinck of Only Farmers, the platform he founded with his mum; Lisa Hogan of Clarkson's Farm, for a proper conversation about what HumberPalmers is about. It's a good watch, and it's up now on our Facebook page.

We'll be back next year. And if we didn't get the chance to talk this time, the door's always open.

From The Field

Combines Rolling Early, Again

For the second year running, harvest has come at us in a hurry. Winter barley was coming off before the month was a week old, and combines have been rolling since! This is a few days earlier than last summer's record start. Like last year, the driest districts look set to finish in July, near unheard of not long ago. Results are mixed: lighter land ripened early with the weight not there; heavier ground has held up better.

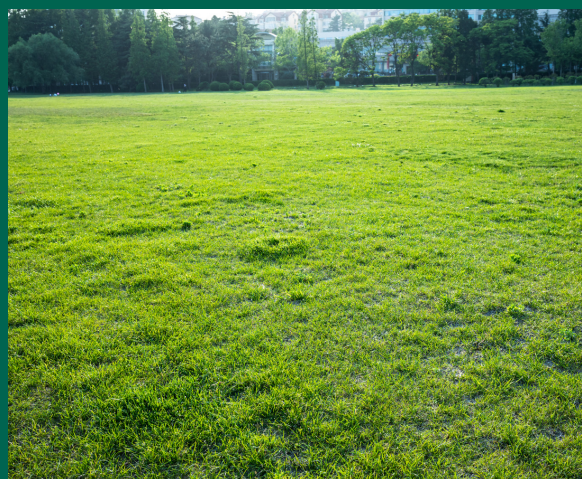


Grassland Tip

Don't Chase Growth That Isn't There

In a drought the calendar is the wrong guide the crop is.

Hold nitrogen and sulphur until you've had enough rain to wet soils and get grass genuinely growing again; applied to dry ground they wait around at best and cost you at worst. Watch the forecast, keep product ready in the shed, and be first out when conditions turn.



Technical Fact

Grass growth is driven by moisture as much as by temperature and nutrients. When soil moisture runs short the plant simply shuts down and cannot take up applied fertiliser — which is why, in a dry summer, nutrient timing is about matching inputs to growth rather than keeping to the diary. Get that timing right when rain returns and every kilo works harder.



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