

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		
Scrub control														
- gorse coppicing	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow		
- other cutting	Yellow	Yellow	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow		
- stump treatment	Yellow	Yellow	Sap is rising so treatment is likely to be ineffective.				Purple	Purple	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	
Mowing/foraging														
- annual maintenance ¹	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Green	Harvest heather seed.	
- new sites	Yellow	Yellow	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Green	Harvest heather seed.
Rotovation of firebreaks														
- on mown site ²	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Yellow		
- on unmown site (Beware breeding birds)	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Teal	Teal	Teal	Teal	Teal	Teal		
- re-rotovation (Beware breeding birds)	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Teal	Teal	Teal	Teal	Teal	Teal		
Burning														
(Not suitable for key reptile sites)	Yellow	Green	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Yellow	
Bracken control														
- cutting ³	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Beware breeding birds.	
- spraying ⁴	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Beware breeding birds.	

The Heathland Management Calendar

Adapted from the *Herpetofauna Workers Guide* (Eds A.H. Gent & S.D. Gibson).

¹Beware reptiles at the edge of heather patches.

²Avoid sandy sections: reptiles may be hibernating or egg-laying.

³Three cuts per year are needed for maximum effect. Choose a date in July if you can only manage one.

⁴Best done after fronds unfurl and before the first frost.

Green	Most effective and least damaging time to carry out work.
Yellow	Work may be less effective and/or requires more care to avoid disturbance.
Purple	Birds nesting from mid-April to end of August.*
Orange	Reptiles are above ground.**
Light Green	Hibernating reptiles below ground.
Teal	Reptile eggs incubating, especially in sandy sites.

*Both woodlark and Dartford warbler nest early and the latter may breed a second time, so avoid favoured areas. Nightjars may also be present in bracken or using areas of leaf/bracken litter near tree stumps.

**Reptiles may be sluggish and slow to avoid danger in spring and autumn. Be especially careful at the edge of heather patches.

Please note this calendar was adapted from the Heathland Management Calendar produced by the Dorset Heathland Forum—timings may vary in other counties.

