Grassland and Maize Agronomy Update

CORTEVA™ agriscience

AUTUMN 2022

In this edition

Welcome to the Corteva Agriscience Grassland and Maize Agronomy Update.

This will be the final update for the 2022 grassland season, the next edition will be in spring 2023. These regular technical notes are a seasonal commentary to help those interested in improving grassland and forage productivity on dairy, beef, sheep and equestrian enterprises. You can claim two CPD points for subscribing to this email update.

Why autumn is a good time to target docks.

Many farmers think that docks can only be sprayed with herbicide in the spring, and that autumn is too late for weed control, but in fact autumn is a great time to clear grass fields of docks.

The reason for this is that in the autumn, the plants will begin to prepare for the onset of winter and whilst still actively growing, they are starting to send nutrients down to their roots ready for winter. This will facilitate the movement of a translocated herbicide into the plant roots and result in effective long-term control. Also, the docks will be gone before early spring slurry and fertiliser applications are made, which means that they won't be competing for nutrients intended for the grass.

Other benefits include:

- There is plenty of grass which means there is less pressure regarding stock withdrawal periods.
- Docks in silage/hay paddocks will be at a similar size and in a good leafy condition making them ideal for herbicide uptake. If they aren't in this condition and are showing high levels of leaf damage or are seeding, it is advisable to cut them and spray 2-3 weeks after cutting.
- Spring is a busy period, so now is a good time to capitalise on a lesser workload and prepare fields in readiness for the spring.
- Spraying dock regrowth with Doxstar® Pro or Forefront® T three to four weeks after the last silage cut is a good option.

Options for weed control in later summer/early autumn new sown leys.

There are many weeds, including docks and chickweed, that quickly take advantage of freshly turned, bare soil. They can easily outcompete the small seedling grasses if allowed to get too big.

Control seedling weeds in new swards with **Envy®**, which can be applied until 30th November. Controlling two-leaf seedling docks in reseeds is much easier than tackling large plants with extensive roots next spring, so take the chance to get rid of them now.

Envy outperforms straight fluroxypyr in fluctuating autumn temperatures. However, where frosts are predicted, ensure the application is made at least 14 days before cold weather sets in. If this is not feasible, wait and apply the following spring. Apply Envy once the grass has three true leaves at 1.0 L/ha in 200 L/ha of water for the control of chickweed up to the flowering stage; where seedling docks or docks growing from root fragments are a problem apply Envy at 1.5 L/ha in 200 L/ha of water.

Leystar® can also be used in new leys until 31st August.

Envy®
HERBICIDE

Leystar®
HERBICIDE

Spraying grassland weeds that have gone beyond ideal growth stages.

Ideally, all weed control would be carried out in a timely manner. However, in reality other jobs such as caring for livestock take priority for livestock farmers, or unsuitable weather conditions at the correct timing for weed control, means that weeds get out of hand, meaning remedial action is needed.

Where weeds have grown past the ideal vegetative growth stage and are now flowering, application of herbicides at this timing will result in reduced levels of control. The best course of action is to top them (this re-energises perennial weeds to resume vegetative growth), allow them to regrow for approximately three weeks and then spray the leafy regrowth.

Autumn control of buttercups

Ideally, the best time to spray buttercups is before flowering in the spring. However, if this opportunity to treat was missed then all is not lost. Controlling buttercups this autumn will prevent vegetative growth and removing weeds from fields now will promote growth of desirable grasses to help compete against emerging weeds.

A good level of control of creeping buttercup can still be obtained post flowering in the early autumn. Corteva trials have shown that treating with Envy, at 2.0L/ha in 200-400L/ha of water, can still give control of buttercups in excess of 85%.

'Use by' date of clopyralid containing grassland herbicides.

Labels for ALL authorisations of products containing clopyralid with a label use on grassland will soon have additional restrictions. The current authorisations for sale by distribution will cease on 31st October 2022. Products will need to be used on farm by 31st October 2023.

There is a growing role for manure to part replace peat in some manufactured composts, and more home-grown vegetable production drawing on local livestock / equestrian businesses for manure.

The use of mulches and not digging in manures is practiced by a growing number of gardeners which can lead to longer break-down times of plant material and any clopyralid residues if present.

As a result of this we are advising that clopyralid containing products (**Thistlex®**, **Pas®·Tor® Agronomy Pack** or Leystar) should not be used on grass which will be cut for animal feed (i.e. fresh cut grass, silage, hay and haylage), fodder or bedding, nor for composting or mulching within one year of treatment, and should not be used on grassland grazed by horses and ponies. This will significantly reduce the likelihood of clopyralid residues in manure from having a consequence where its use may end up on sensitive crops.

Labels for clopyralid containing products used on grassland will be updated to reflect these changes in use. Labels with the new authorisations and new MAPP numbers will be in use from 2023, to prevent issues occurring in the chain from hay to manure to gardens, to ensure gardeners don't have issues with herbicide residues affecting sensitive vegetable crops.

Product name	Old MAPP number	New MAPP number	Expiry of sale & distribution	Expiry of disposal, storage & use
Blaster Pro	M18074	M19937	31/10/2022	31/10/2023
Dingo	M18412	M19959	31/10/2022	31/10/2023
Grazon Pro	M15785	M19875	31/10/2022	31/10/2023
Leystar	M17921	M19938	31/10/2022	31/10/2023
Prevail	M17395	M19957	31/10/2022	31/10/2023
Thistlex	M16123	M19876	31/10/2022	31/10/2023
Tor	M17777	M19958	31/10/2022	31/10/2023

More details can be found in a dedicated topic sheet here or in our Farm More Forage app.

Forefront T stewardship training reminder.

The Forefront T online training module is an easy-to-use online course for:

- **BASIS Crop Protection Certificated Agronomists (Full or Grassland) who already advise on the use of this product.**
- **BASIS Crop Protection Certificated Agronomists who are interested in advising on Forefront T use for the first time.**

The course offers an opportunity to learn/refresh knowledge, and to earn 2 BASIS Points at a convenient time. Anyone who completed the course and claimed BASIS Points in the 2021/22 points year can re-take the course and claim again for the 2022/23 points year.

The course will take experienced Forefront T Advisors up to 35 minutes to complete. Those wishing to become Forefront T Advisors for the first time should allow an additional 10-15 minutes.

If you wish to take our Forefront T Stewardship Course for Advisors, please contact **ukhotline@corteva.com**

Forefront® T

HERBICIDE

Importance of minimum water volumes.

Spraying grassland tends to be more challenging than spraying arable crops with the latter focusing more around managed traffic movement e.g. tramlines. Grassland typically has a more undulating and uneven surface caused by hoof tracks, poaching and wheel tracks caused by un-managed traffic movement, requiring travelling speed to be reduced to minimise unwanted boom movement.

There may be the urge to reduce water volumes to speed up spraying times. However, in our experience, reducing water volumes on perennial grassland weeds such as docks, can reduce both efficacy and root kill due to leaves being scorched by the higher concentration of chemical, resulting in reduced uptake into the plant and roots.

Reducing water volumes also increases chemical concentration and can be illegal, as the concentration is part of the registration for the product. Operator exposure could also be increased.

We strongly recommend following the water volumes on the product label, as to not do so may constitute a breach of the law e.g. applying a product at a higher concentration than the registration allows.

Product	Minimum Water Volume (L/ha)
Doxstar Pro	300-400 or can be reduced to 200 with low drift nozzles
Envy	200-400 or can be reduced to 200 with low drift nozzles
Forefront T	200-300 or can be reduced to 200 with low drift nozzles
Leystar	150-400 or can be reduced to 200 with low drift nozzles in established grassland
Pas·Tor	Pas at 300-400, Tor at 200-400, therefore apply at 300 minimum or can be reduced to 200 with low drift nozzles
Thistlex	200-400 or can be reduced to 200 with low drift nozzles

Opportunities with a knapsack sprayer.

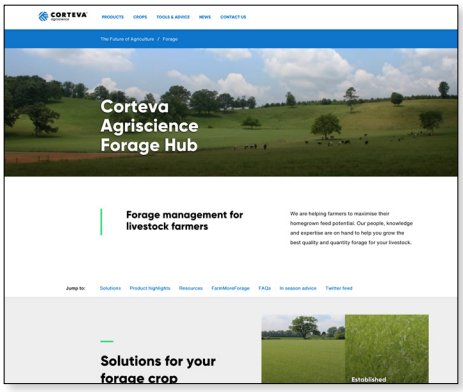
With the dry weather this summer, many grass crops will be suffering from drought stress, and a herbicide treatment using a boom sprayer may not be appropriate. In this situation, **Grazon® Pro** which is applied as a spot treatment to the weeds only via a knapsack sprayer is an excellent way to treat weeds without applying to the stressed grass.

Some useful tips on knapsack sprayer applications with Grazon Pro:

- Ensure that the sprayer operator is suitably qualified to undertake the type of knapsack spraying that is required
- Check the knapsack sprayer is clean, in good condition and safe to use
- The rate for Grazon Pro is 60ml/10L water
- Take care to avoid splashing any pesticide concentrate or spray solution when filling
- Check wind direction is away from, or will not cause spray to drift to, any environmentally sensitive areas or the sprayer operator. The sprayer operator must wear the appropriate PPE for this activity
- Don't risk pesticides reaching water
- Never be tempted to overdose by either adding more pesticide than is needed when preparing the spray solution or during the application
- Do not apply so much spray that it runs off the target.

New Forage Hub.

Have you seen our new Forage Hub? Access in season information to support you through the year.



Controlling weeds in equestrian paddocks.

At this time of year weeds could have encroached and created poor quality grazing for horses and ponies.

Controlling these weeds in horse and pony paddocks is important because they:

- Compete with grass for space, light, nutrients and water
- Can be unpalatable to the horse or pony
- Can be poisonous, e.g. ragwort or buttercup
- Take over the paddock and if left unchecked limit ability to graze
- Can spread to neighbouring properties
- Make pastures look messy, untidy, and unkempt.

For weed control options in horse and pony paddocks click here or use the Farm More Forage app.

Maize silage inoculants.

PIONEER®
MADE TO GROW™

Maize is one of the most economical forages in terms of yield and energy value, if grown successfully and harvested at the right time. With the maize harvest approaching, the focus shifts from making grass and wholecrop cereal silage to making maize silage - for both forage and biogas production.

Applying an effective silage inoculant helps to retain a crop's nutrient and dry matter content, resulting in lower energy and dry matter losses. There are a range of Pioneer® Brand inoculants suitable for maize silage, depending on the type of silage made and the intended end use of the forage.

For maize ensiled for use in anaerobic digesters, 11CH4 works by unlocking nutrients and releasing energy, thereby significantly increasing methane production. Research has highlighted that the use of 11CH4 increases methane yield by 8% whilst improving aerobic stability and reducing silage losses by 50%. 11CH4 also improves silage aerobic stability.

11CFT has been developed for applying to maize intended to be ensiled and fed for the maximum possible milk or beef production efficacy. 11CFT contains a unique novel strain of *Lactobacillus buchneri* which, through its ability to produce Ferulate Esterase enzymes, decouples cell walls from the lignin backbone thereby improving fibre digestibility. It is also formulated to lead to a rapid drop in pH and reduce aerobic spoilage. It is advised to wait 6 weeks after ensiling 11CFT treated before forage feeding out to obtain optimum results.

Pioneer Brand 11C33 Rapid React is now a very popular choice for users who want a maize inoculant that can improve silage fermentation quality and aerobic stability. The proven Rapid React version of 11C33 ensures silage aerobic stability is now achieved from as little as 1 week after ensiling – ensuring users minimise wastage even if they open the silage clamp very soon after ensiling.

For maize silage which is expected to be of a very high dry matter content, and where aerobic instability is a key concern, Pioneer Brand 11A44 is a good choice. 11A44 will not improve silage fermentation quality, but it is able to improve silage aerobic stability more than any other Pioneer inoculant.

BASIS points.

2 BASIS points (1 crop protection and 1 personal development) will be awarded to those subscribing to Grassland Agronomy and Maize Agronomy Update. Please include course name **'Grassland Agronomy Update'** and ref number: **CP/119500/2223/g**, on the training record and send to *cpd@basis-reg.co.uk* These details are valid until **31 May 2023**.

BASIS

Ask a question.

Q. What solutions do Corteva have to control Horsetail (*Equisetum*) that is starting to ingress from field margins?

A. Grazon Pro, Envy (2.0L/ha) and Leystar (2.0L/ha) will have some control. Best to bruise first e.g. by rolling.

Q. I have a thistle problem (and other weeds) in game cover crops - what can I do?

A. Thistlex has EAMU (20210861) for use in game cover. Use the Farm More Forage App to see the range of weeds it will control. For additional information click here.

Q. What is the definition of a newly sown ley?

A. A new sown ley is grassland under 12 months old. Once a ley has been growing for 12 months it is classified as established grassland.

Q. When is the last date I can apply Leystar?

A. Use Leystar on new sown leys up to 31st August and on established grassland up to 30th September.

Q. What is the last date I can use Grazon Pro for spot control of perennial weeds in established grassland (including horse and pony paddocks)?

A. Use Grazon Pro as late as 31st October but avoid very cold conditions.

Q. What are the key aspects of successful weed control that I should consider when using a translocated herbicide on broad-leaved weeds in grassland?

A. Weeds should be healthy and actively growing. Avoid spraying when the crop and/or weeds are under stress caused by drought or water-logging.

We're here to help you

Corteva's Technical Services Team

For technical advice and support, contact the technical hotline or your local Corteva Area Manager.

Georgina Clayton

Nicola Perry

Technical hotline: 0800 689 8899 Email: ukhotline@corteva.com or visit: www.corteva.co.uk/grassland or download the Farm More Forage app available on Apple or Android. For regular updates on agronomic issues, find us on Facebook and Twitter or search for @CortevaUK on social media. Orders: custserv@corteva.com General enquiries: 01462 457272 Email: CortevaUK@corteva.com You can also visit our website for additional contact numbers.

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USE PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS SAFELY. Always read the label and product information before use. For further information including warning phrases and symbols refer to label.