



July 2021



# Welcome to the Corteva Agriscience™ Grassland and Maize Agronomy Update.

Welcome to the latest update for the 2021 grassland and maize season.

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.

Don't forget to claim your 2 CPD points for subscribing to this newsletter. If you are not a subscriber and want to sign up then please go to: <https://www.corteva.co.uk/contact-us/sign-up.html> and complete your details.

You can unsubscribe at anytime by emailing:

[cortevauk@corteva.com](mailto:cortevauk@corteva.com)

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## Download the FarmMoreForage App

Where you are currently using the Grassland App – please now switch to the [FarmMorageForage App](#).

This App carries information on all our solutions for the livestock farmer: maize seed, silage inoculants, grass and maize herbicides and nitrogen stabilizers.

It also is needed for the [Forefront® T](#) Stewardship Record Management Tool which no longer works in the Grassland App. All current client records are transferred automatically when the same e-mail is used in registering the new app.

It is available for IOS and Android. If you need any help on switching over contact [Rosamund.howling@corteva.com](mailto:Rosamund.howling@corteva.com)



# Benefits of using Formulated Products over a Tank Mix

**Herbicides are formulated to make them easier to advise on, handle, mix and apply. Formulations undergo rigorous testing both in laboratories and under field conditions. Corteva's grassland herbicides contain everything needed for grassland weed control all in one pack.**

Why should you use a formulated product?

- The label details the technical offer backed up by the manufacturer to give you confidence when advising
- Easier to instruct the farmer on what to do
- There is less packaging
- Competitor products often tank mixing two moderately susceptible products

to get a susceptible weed rating – Corteva products already have susceptible on the label without the need for a tank mix.

- Adjuvants are part of the formulation and don't have an approval for use in grassland

If you don't mix products together the right way, you could encounter costly and time-consuming problems with your mix.

For the best control , it is important to spray grassland weeds when they are at the correct growth stage.

## Nettle Control

**Nettle patches may have been topped earlier in the year, or cut back when a field was mown, and have now reappeared. Now is a good time to spray the regrowth. The weeds need to be actively growing with fresh green growth. This is important so that the weeds take in as much herbicide as possible through their leaves, so they can translocate it down to the roots for a thorough kill.**

**Good control of nettle can be achieved using Forefront T in cattle and sheep grazed pastures. For spot treatment of nettle patches, Grazon® Pro gives good control. For boom sprayer situations where stewardship requirements mean [Forefront T](#) cannot be used, then [Doxstar® Pro](#) or [Thistlex®](#) will all provide moderate control of nettle and other weeds.**

## Hay Crops Stewardship Reminder

**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.** As a result of this we are advising that clopyralid containing products ([Thistlex](#), [Pas®-Tor® Agronomy Pack](#), Lontrel 600 and [Leystar®](#)) should not be used on grass which will be made into hay in the same year as treatment. This will significantly reduce the likelihood of clopyralid residues in manure and potentially having a consequence where its use may end up on sensitive crops.

We will be introducing more restrictions on use of clopyralid in 2022 and future-proofing our product labels 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.

Consider fields which are due to be cut

for hay next year, and treat thistles now, so that they are not an issue in hay crops next year.

[Forefront®T](#) is for use on grassland for cattle and sheep grazing. If hay or haylage has inadvertently been made from a field treated with Forefront T, the hay/haylage and any resulting manure must remain on the farm of origin. Please check / remind farmer clients to abide by this requirement.



## Forefront T Stewardship Training Reminder

**If you wish to take our [Forefront T](#) Stewardship Course for Advisors, or receive a copy of our PDF Guide on using the Forefront T Stewardship Record Management Tool, please contact [ukhotline@corteva.com](mailto:ukhotline@corteva.com)**

**2021/2 BASIS year CPD points are now available for first time and refresher training.**

# Buttercups – post flowering treatment

**Best control of buttercups is achieved if they are sprayed before flowering.** However, if the opportunity to treat was missed this spring then all is not lost, as useful control of creeping buttercup can still be obtained post flowering, but control can be 10% less than from a pre-flowering application. Use [Envy®](#) at 2.0 L/ha. The application period runs to 30th November.



## Feedback on using Corteva Grassland Products

**Feedback is welcomed on how Corteva grassland herbicides have performed on farms this season.**

Please share your experience of Corteva products by sending an email to [rosamund.howling@corteva.com](mailto:rosamund.howling@corteva.com).

## Weed control in equine paddocks

**At this time of year weeds could have encroached and created poor quality grazing for horses and ponies. Sorting out weed problems for horse owners now is important because they:**

- Compete with grass for space, light, nutrients and water.
- Are 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.

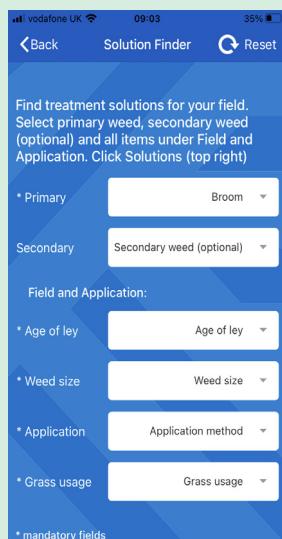
For weed control options in horse and pony paddocks see <https://www.corteva.co.uk/crops/grassland/paddocks.html>



## FarmMoreForage App focus: Grassland Herbicide Solution Finder feature

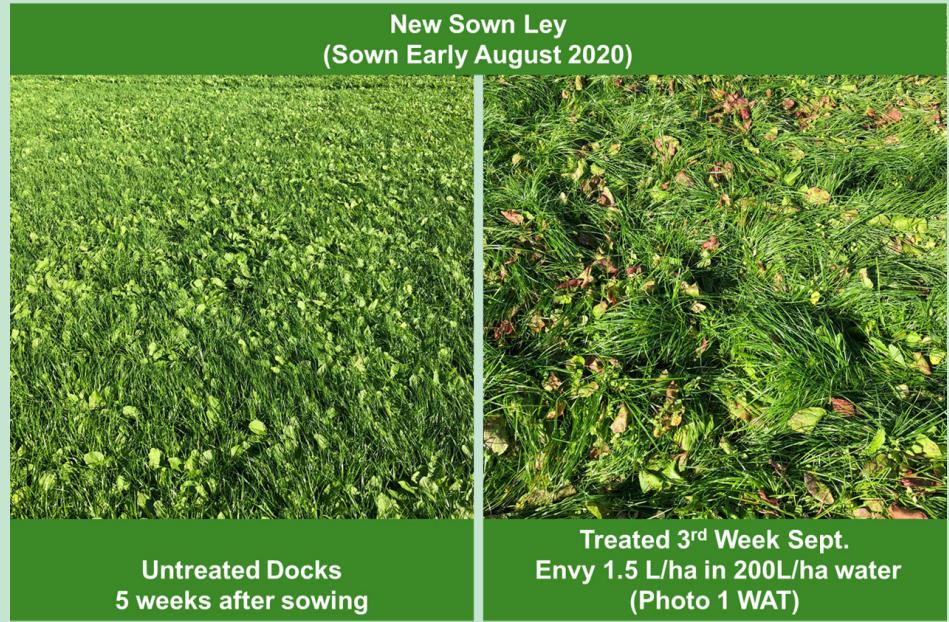
**For help selecting the best herbicide treatment solution for your field, use the Solution Finder tool in the FarmMoreForage App (Go To – Weed Control in the Main Menu and then choose Grassland Herbicide Solution Finder).**

To use the 'Solution finder', enter your 'Primary weed', there is also an option to enter a 'Secondary weed' if required. Choose the 'Age of ley', the 'Weed size', the 'Application method', and the grass usage. The app then recommends the best Corteva grassland herbicide for your situation.



## I have docks growing from root fragments in my new sown ley. Should I use Leystar or Envy?

Docks are a very important weed to control in new sown leys. In fact, it is the best time to control them. Unlike Leystar®, Envy can be applied at the much higher dose rate of 1.5L/ha in new sown leys, which makes it a very powerful tool against this major weed (see photo to the right). If clover is present, it will be killed, but can be re-sown next spring.



## Do's and Don'ts of Knapsack Spraying

Summer months are an ideal time to target woody weeds such as bramble, broom and gorse (whins) using a spot treatment with Grazon Pro. Here then are some useful tips on knapsack sprayer applications:

- Do read the label before use and follow instructions.
- Check the knapsack sprayer is clean, in good condition and safe to use.
- Part fill with water, pressurize and check the nozzle is performing correctly.
- Double check dose rates and mixing quantities using the product label. The rate for Grazon Pro is 60ml/10L water.
- Do fill up in an appropriate pesticide handling area.
- 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 and wear the appropriate PPE for this activity.
- Always spray away from water courses.
- Do clean the tank and lance thoroughly after spraying.
- 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.
- Avoid walking through the area you have already.
- Do not apply so much spray that it runs off the target.

For more knapsack spray tips see <https://voluntaryinitiative.org.uk/media/1286/knapsackdosanddonts.pdf>

## Silage inoculants for wholecrop cereals

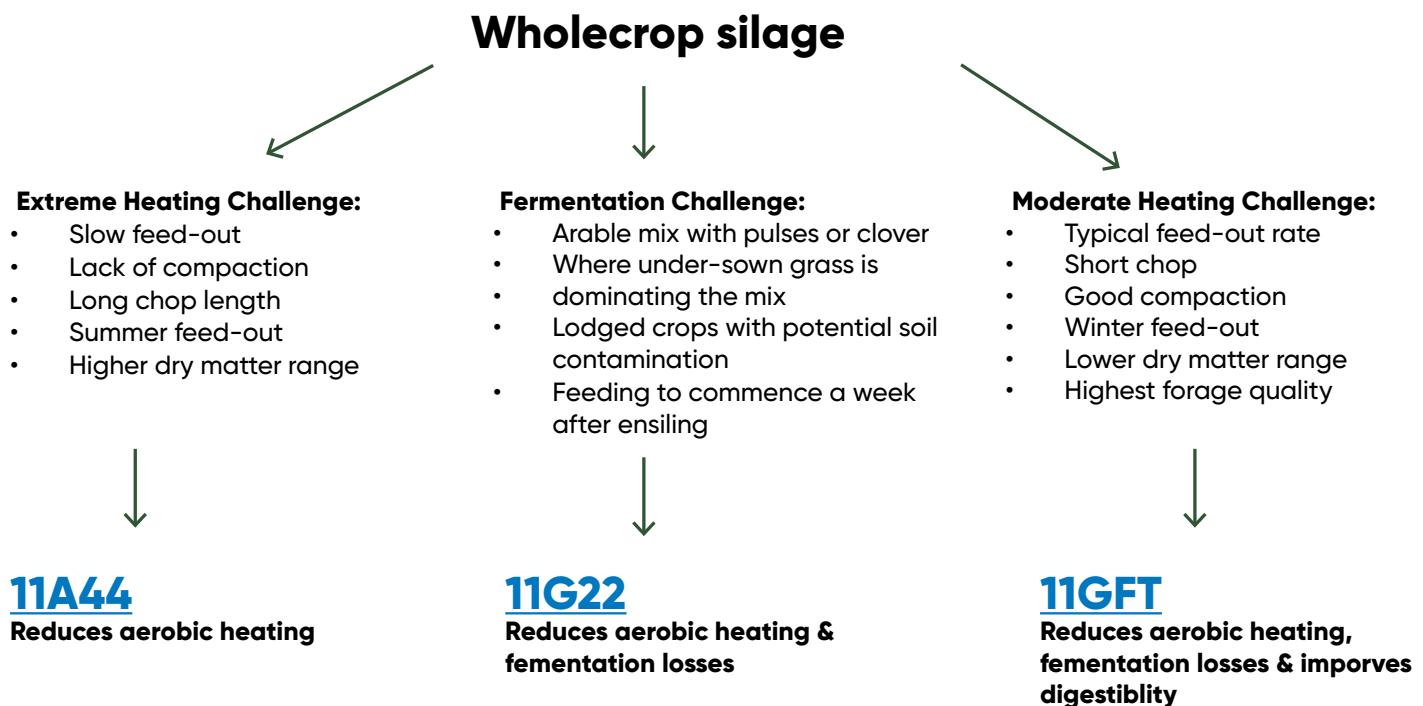
With silage yields being lower in some areas this year, there is currently a potential shortfall in forage stocks, so farmers may be considering conserving a greater tonnage of wholecrop cereals to offset the shortfall.

Pioneer silage inoculants can optimise the feeding value of wholecrop cereal silage by:

- Reducing heating during feed-out by inhibiting the growth of yeasts that are the cause of heating at the silage face.
- Improve the efficiency of the fermentation process
- Enzyme activity that increases forage digestibility

Selection of the most appropriate silage inoculant:

The selection of silage inoculant needs an understanding of benefits that are sought. The flowchart below outlines the most appropriate Pioneer Brand inoculant dependent on the specific harvesting challenges encountered.



## Optinyte: Build resilience into forage crops

Weather patterns in the autumn have been unpredictable of late, with above average rainfall in many areas of the UK. Too much rain can leach nitrogen or create waterlogged soils which leads to loss of nitrogen by greenhouse gases. This escape of nitrogen into the environment is not good economically or environmentally. Including a nitrogen stabiliser can help to build resilience into a cropping programme by protecting valuable nitrogen, improving winter crops, and delivering a clear environmental benefit on farm.

Nitrogen stabilisers slow down the conversion of ammonium to nitrate and keep nitrogen available to crops for longer to optimise yield and quality. Corteva nitrogen stabiliser products feature [Optinyte™ technology](#) and are sold under the N-Lock and Instinct brands.

By applying Optinyte products prior to drilling, the de-nitrification process can be slowed and reduce leaching during the wet autumn months when soils are most vulnerable to leaching. Controlling nitrogen in this way has a double benefit – it keeps nitrogen available to crops for longer to optimise yield and quality, and it improves sustainability by reducing nitrogen losses by up to 50% through leaching and greenhouse gases – worth bearing in mind when preparing to drill maize in the following spring.

## Ask a question

**Q** What is the definition of a new 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 grass.

**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** I want to recommend Thistlex for thistle control but can't access a supply, what should I recommend instead?

**A** Use Lontrel 600 at 0.33 lts / ha. This solution will deliver a similar level of control on all thistle species when compared to Thistlex. For more information and to see the label, go the FarmMoreForage App.

## Voluntary Initiative IPM Assessment Plan for Grassland and VI Champions

**The Voluntary Initiative (VI) have worked with the NFU to improve the IPM Assessment Plan for grassland.** As pesticide use in grassland is dominated by herbicides, the IPM Assessment Plan for farm businesses with no other crop than grass only covers Integrated Weed Management. Completing an IPM plan annually will help ensure that opportunities to improve productivity are not missed and help meet the market demand to see more sustainable practices and reduced reliance on pesticides. It may also be necessary for compliance with farm assurance schemes.

The IPM plan for grassland can be found [here](#).

The VI are also looking for more VI Champions to integrate and promote grassland IPM plans to farmers. Contact [info@voluntaryinitiative.org.uk](mailto:info@voluntaryinitiative.org.uk) for further information.

## Earn BASIS Points.

**A number of BASIS CPD points are available for Corteva grassland publications and training, including by downloading and using the FarmMoreForage App for Advisors, by reading the Corteva Grassland and Maize Agronomy Guide (2021 edition out soon), and by completing or taking a refresher of the Forefront T Stewardship Course for Advisors online training.**

**You can also earn 2 BASIS points (1 crop protection and 1 personal development) will be awarded to those subscribing to Grassland and Maize Agronomy Update.**

**Please include course name 'Grassland Agronomy Update' and ref number: CP/11459/2122/g, on your training record and send to:**

**[cpd@basis-reg.co.uk](mailto:cpd@basis-reg.co.uk)**

**These details are valid until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022.**



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**For further information please contact the Corteva Agriscience technical hotline on 0800 689 8899 or [UKHotline@corteva.com](mailto:UKHotline@corteva.com), go to [www.corteva.co.uk/forage.html](http://www.corteva.co.uk/forage.html) or download the FarmMoreForage app available on [apple](#) or [android](#).**