



# Grassland and Maize Agronomy Update



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

Welcome to the last 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.

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## Buttercups – Autumn Treatment

Buttercups often flourish in overgrazed pasture. 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. A good level of control of creeping buttercup can still be obtained post flowering, even though levels of control can be 10% less than from the optimal pre-flowering application in the spring. 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. Use [Envy®](#) at 2.0 L/ha in 200-400L water per Ha.



# Envy for weed control in new sown leys

## Reseeding results in improved grass yield and quality, reducing bought-in feed requirements.

Investing in a grass reseed can be expensive and young leys deserve the best start to fulfil their yield potential next year. Tackling grassland weeds early improves sward palatability, productivity and reduces costs in the long run.

Chickweed and docks

can easily out-compete young grass. Controlling two-leaf seedling docks in re-seeds is much easier than tackling large plants with extensive roots the following spring, so take the chance to get rid of them now. **Envy** will also control docks establishing from root fragments.

Control seedling weeds in new swards using Envy, which can be sprayed until the end of November.

**Envy** outperforms straight fluroxypyr in fluctuating autumn temperatures, but where frosts are predicted then 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 at 1.5 L/ha in 200 L of water once the grass has three true leaves.

## 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.**

## It's Time To Target Docks

**Autumn is a really good time to target docks with an effective translocated herbicide. Many farmers think that docks can only be sprayed with herbicide in the spring and that it is too late now, but this is far from the truth. autumn is a great time to clear grass fields of docks.** It means that they will be gone before slurry and fertiliser applications which means that they won't be competing for nutrients intended for the grass.

- There is plenty of grass which means there is less pressure regarding stock

withdrawal periods.

- Docks in silage/hay paddocks will now all be at a similar size and in a good leafy condition so ideal for herbicide uptake. If they aren't 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 time, so now is a good time to spread the workload.

Spraying dock regrowth with [Doxstar® Pro](#) or [Forefront® T](#) three to four weeks after the last silage cut is a good option.



## FarmMoreForage App Focus - Silage Inoculants Decision Tree

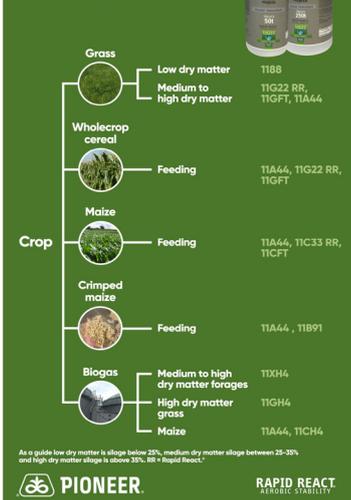
For help selecting the best silage inoculant for better quality maize silage, use the Solution Finder feature of the Farm More Forage App.

Found under Inoculants & Inhibitors – Silage Inoculants Decision Tree

To download the App, go to:



### Which silage inoculants?



## Controlling weeds in established grassland now sets up pastures for optimal growth next spring

**The weather this spring was not conducive to dealing with grassland weeds. Many, such as docks, thistles and nettles, have grown on, set seed and dominated a greater area than before. But all is not lost. Recent mild and wet weather means now is a good time to take back control and carry out grassland spraying.**

In late summer and early autumn, weeds are still growing actively and preparing for winter by moving nutrients into the roots. This is the ideal time to implement a weed control plan, as translocated herbicides applied now are transported to the roots, resulting in good root kill and longer-lasting protection from re-infestation.

Controlling weeds is an important part of ensuring established grassland remains productive and efficient. Treating weeds now enables grass to recolonise so next spring grass growth is unhindered. Also removing weeds now means that any over-winter and early spring nutrients applied to these fields will feed the grass, not the weeds. Spring workload will also be reduced.

Control weeds such as docks, thistles, nettles, buttercups and ragwort in fields only grazed by cattle and sheep, [Forefront T](#) is a great choice. It's a broad spectrum, grass-safe herbicide and provides a fast solution to rejuvenate grass in time for spring. If using it on cutting fields, make sure the last cut has been taken. If docks are your main

concern in both grazing or silage fields, [Doxstar Pro](#) is the best choice.



## Inoculants to use in maize

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 whole-crop 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.



## Ask a question

**Q** Are both curled and broad-leaved docks controlled by Doxstar Pro and Forefront T?

**A** Yes, both species are controlled with either Doxstar Pro or Forefront T.

**Q** Can I still use Leystar?

**A** Yes, until 30<sup>th</sup> September on established grassland and grass being grown for seed.

**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.

## UK Dairy Day

The Corteva Forage Team will be attending [UK Dairy Day](#) at the International Centre, Telford on 15<sup>th</sup> September. We look forward to seeing you there.



## 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.

For regular updates on agronomic issues, find us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CortevaForage> and Facebook: [facebook.com/cortevauk](https://facebook.com/cortevauk)

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](#).

Discover more at [corteva.co.uk](http://corteva.co.uk)

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.

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\*, \*\* Trademarks Corteva Agriscience and its affiliated companies. All other brand names are trademarks of other manufacturers for which proprietary rights may exist. Forefront\* T contains aminopyralid and triclopyr. Envy® contains fluroxypyr and florasulam.

Doxstar® Pro contains triclopyr and fluroxypyr. Leystar® contains fluroxypyr, clopyralid and florasulam.



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