

# Herbicide Choices For Game Cover Crops

Weed control is often essential to ensure that you achieve the best game cover crop for shooting and wildlife interest and that they do not contribute to the weed seed burden for future crops. Controlling weeds in game cover crops is challenging, as often there are a mixture of crop types present.

Corteva Agriscience has carried out extensive screening trials with our herbicides on game cover crops and we work with partners to secure Extensions of Authorisations for Minor Use (EAMU) to permit use of our products in game covers. The table overleaf contains full details of the selectivity of our products.

For more information see: <https://www.corteva.co.uk/tools-and-advice/stewardship/game-cover.html>

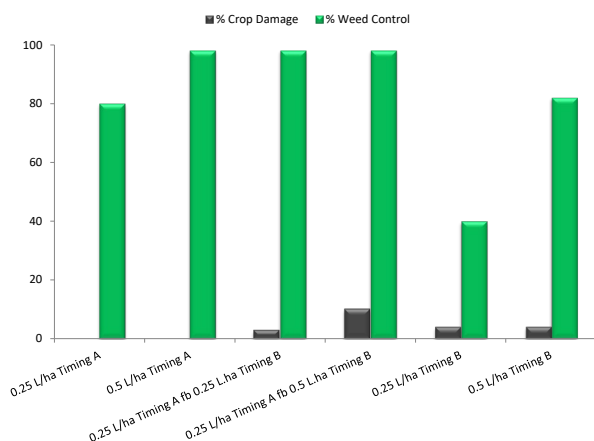
## Maize and cereal type covers

Starane Hi-Load and co-formulations of fluroxypyr and florasulam (e.g. Starane XL) offer weed control in cereal and maize type covers (in maize please note: use at the 3-6 expanded true leaf stage and before buttress roots start to form).

## Cereal and brassica covers

Dow Shield 400 and Thistlex also have good opportunities in game cover crops. These well-established products can be used in a range of cereal/maize/brassica type game cover crops, although there are some crop types that should be avoided, notably: chicory, sunflowers, artichokes and leguminous crops. Of these two products, Dow Shield 400 is "safer" to brassica type game covers.

Corteva Agriscience in conjunction with Oakbank Game and Conservation have carried out trials to examine timing and dose rate of Dow Shield 400 in a number of 'off-the-shelf' game cover mixes. The trials showed that applications of Dow Shield 400 at 0.25 L/ha and 0.5 L/ha, at the 4-6 leaf stage of the game cover crops gave high levels of weed control and resulted in minimal levels of crop damage (particularly on slightly sensitive crop types like quinoa) compared to later applications or sequences of Dow Shield 400 (see chart below).



## Best use advice

- Think about weed control options when choosing game cover mixes
- In cereal and maize covers use Starane Hi-Load / Starane XL to control a range of competitive weeds
- In mixed cereal and brassica game covers use Thistlex at 1.0 L/ha or Dow Shield 400 at 0.25L/ha to 0.5L/ha at 4-6 stage of the game cover to control thistles, mayweeds and groundsel

## Green cover crops

Many growers are turning to green cover crops to improve soil health, increase nitrogen efficiency and reduce weeds and soil borne pests. The excellent rotational crop safety of Broadway® Star and the co-formulations of fluroxypyr and florasulam (e.g. Starane XL) allows brassica type cover crops to be sown after a treated cereal crop.

Consider using Instinct® after ploughing-in of cover crops to keep nitrogen available in the root zone for longer and optimise yield.

Game Cover Crop	<a href="#">Dow Shield 400</a>	<a href="#">Starane XL</a>	<a href="#">Starane Hi-Load</a>	<a href="#">Thistlex</a>
Borage	Yes	No	No	Yes
Buckwheat	some crop damage	No	No	Yes
Canary grass	Yes	some crop damage	Yes	Yes
Fodder radish	Yes	No	No	No
Gold of pleasure	some crop damage	No	No	No
Kale	Yes	No	No	Yes
Maize	Yes	some crop damage	some crop damage	Yes
Millet (white, red, reed)	Yes	some crop damage	white millet only	Yes
Miscanthus	Yes	No	Yes	No
Mustard	Yes	No	No	some crop damage
Phacelia	Yes	No	No	some crop damage
Quinoa	some crop damage	No	No	No
Sorghum	some crop damage	No	Yes	Yes
Triticale & other cereals	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tyfon cabbage / Stubble turnip	Yes	No	No	some crop damage
NOTES ON USE  Consult Corteva Agriscience for specific advice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rates of 0.25 – 0.5 L/ha</li> <li>Weeds should be actively growing</li> <li>Apply when crop is well established but before flower buds visible</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Clopyralid can remain in plant residues and affect following crops – ensure full incorporation of crop residues before planting treated areas with susceptible crops</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rates of 1 – 1.25 L/ha</li> <li>Apply when crop is well established but before flower buds visible</li> <li>Maize should be treated between 3-6 expanded true leaves and less than 20 cm tall</li> <li>Weeds should be actively growing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rates of 0.6 L/ha</li> <li>Apply when crop is well established but before flower buds visible</li> <li>Sorghum and Maize should be treated between 3-6 expanded true leaves and less than 20 cm tall</li> <li>Weeds should be actively growing, soil temperature above 4°C and avoid times when large variations in day and night time temperatures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rates of 1.0 L/ha</li> <li>Weeds should be actively growing</li> <li>Thistles at rosette stage</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Clopyralid can remain in plant residues and affect following crops – ensure full incorporation of crop residues before planting treated areas with susceptible crops</p>
EAMU	20211086	20210854	20210942	20210861