



Grassland and Maize Agronomy Update

February 2020



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

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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Weed control in new sown leys.

Reseeding is an important part of grassland management. It is expensive, costs of £500 / hectare are typically quoted so it is important that is done successfully.

Spraying early in the life of a sward will ensure a clean start and allow grass to establish quickly without competition from weeds. It is more economical and effective to treat weeds at this stage rather than when they are large and established.

[Leystar](#)® and [Envy](#)® both have approval for use in newly established grassland. For best results apply when weeds are small and actively growing.



Fight Chickweed Menace NOW



This is the time of year when chickweed begins to emerge and smother grassland. Its prostrate growing habit allows it to rapidly colonise any gaps in the sward.

Chickweed will be found in established grassland, often in damaged swards or

where slurry injectors open up the sward allowing chickweed to get a hold. It is also the most common weed of new sown leys. It will aggressively compete with grass species for space, light, water and most importantly nutrients and so it needs to be controlled.

Individual chickweed plants can produce 1300 seeds and it only takes five to six weeks from germination to seed dispersal. Plants are capable of four to five generations a year and seed buried in soil can remain viable for up to 25 years. It's a weed to control.

Use [Envy®](#), which works at lower temperatures than other solutions, and can be sprayed from now until the end of November. One of the two active ingredients in Envy allows it to work at cooler temperatures and also when there are dramatic fluctuations between day and night.

Getting rid of chickweed in young leys, as can be seen in the photo below, allows productive grasses to tiller and re-colonise the bare areas left by the dead chickweed. If this weed is present or will likely emerge then plan for a spray.



This means, if ground conditions allow, it can be done now before the chickweed flowers and before it significantly impacts grass growth.

Envy can be used on chickweed up to 2.0 l/ha in established grassland and at a lower 1.0 l/ha rate in newly sown leys. Getting rid of chickweed in young leys allows productive grasses to tiller out and spread across the ground so if chickweed is present plan a spray!

Envy has excellent grass safety, is rainfast in two hours and has a stock exclusion period of just seven days. Envy is also an excellent herbicide for buttercups and dandelions but it will kill clover.

Forefront T online training module

Forefront T³ is the most effective grassland herbicide on the market, controlling all the key grassland weeds to a very high level. Consequently, interest in its use continues to grow.

It is important then to keep up-to-date on the stewardship requirements of

this product. To make this effort easy an online training module has been created.

The course offers an opportunity for BASIS qualified agronomists to learn/refresh your knowledge, and to earn 2 BASIS Points at your convenience before 31st May 2020.

Anyone who completed the course and

claimed BASIS Points in the 2018/19 points year, can re-take the course and claim again for the 2019/20 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 have not previously receiving joining instructions to undertake this training then email david.gurney@corteva.com and ask to be added to the course.

Forefront T Online Training Module



*You must receive the email invitation from Corteva to be able to login to the course.

Leystar label approval on cereals and undersown cereals

Leystar® now has label approval for use on cereals and undersown cereals. This makes this product even more versatile for broad-leaved weed control on mixed farms, as it can be used in new sown leys, established grass, grass seed crops, forage maize, cereals and cereals undersown with grass.



Crops/situations:	Maximum individual dose: (l product / ha)	Maximum number of treatments: (per year)	Latest time of application:
Established grass	2	1	30 September
New sown leys	1	-	31 August
Grass seed crops	1	1	30 September
Forage maize	1	1	Before seven leaves unfolded and before 30 June
Winter cereals and winter cereals undersown with grass	1	1	Before flag leaf detectable stage
Spring cereals and spring cereals undersown with grass	1	1	Before flag leaf detectable stage

There will be no change to the current MAPP number for Leystar (17921). The new notice of approval (0252/2020) is on the [HSE website](#). The Leystar label will be updated to reflect usage on cereals and undersown cereals and will be available on the Corteva Agriscience website when artwork is complete. Those wanting to use existing stocks of Leystar (without cereals on the printed label) will need to download the notice of approval from the HSE website or the updated label from the Corteva Agriscience website (when available).

Pioneer maize hybrids

New maize hybrid from Pioneer® for 2020

• P7948 is a new hybrid for 2020. This early, large stature hybrid is aimed at growers

on favourable sites planting in the open and those sowing under film. Impressive whole plant yields and quality have been measured in the first year of PACTS Trials.

PACTS® HYBRID AGRONOMIC DESCRIPTIONS FOR 2020									
Hybrid	PACTS® Maturity Description	Soil Type Reference			FAO Rating (Silage)	Early Vigour	Resistance to Lodging Score*	Typical Stover Dry-Down Rate	PACTS Eyespot Resistance Scores**
		Light	Medium	Heavy					
P7326	Extra Early	←	—	→	180	Very Good	8.2	Fast	5.9
P7378	Very Early	←	—	—	180	Very Good	7.4	Fast	3.9
P7034	Very Early	←	—	—	190	Good	8.2	Moderate	5.7
P7892	Early	←	—	—	200	Very Good	8.3	Very Fast	5.5
P7524	Early	←	—	→	200	Very Good	8.3	Moderate	7.3
P7948 - NEW	Early	←	→	—	230	Good	8.3	Moderate	-
P7460 - NEW	Intermediate	←	—	—	230	Average	8.3	Slow	-
P8201	Intermediate	←	→	—	230	Very Good	8.1	Moderate	6.9
P8200	Intermediate	←	—	→	230	Good	7.8	Moderate	7.9
P7932	Late	←	—	—	220	Good	8.2	Moderate	7.0
P8000	Late	←	—	—	230	Average	8.2	Moderate	8.6
P8307	Very Late	←	—	—	240	Average	8.2	Slow	-
P8329	Very Late	←	—	—	250	Very Good	8.2	Moderate	-
P8333	Very Late	←	—	—	250	Good	8.2	Moderate	-
P8171	Very Late	←	—	—	250	Good	7.8	Slow	-

*Lodging resistance scores based on 1-9 where 9 = good and 1 = poor
 ** Scores based on a 1 - 9 scale where 9 = high resistance; data sourced from registration trials and PACTS® trials depending upon hybrid

2020-21 PACTS trial results

The latest Pioneer Accurate Crop Testing System (PACTS) trials results are now available to [download](#). We conduct these trials every year so that we can accurately describe the performance of Pioneer Brand maize hybrids across a range of local growing conditions.



Grass silage inoculants options

Faster and more efficient fermentation means less dry matter loss and improved stability and digestibility. Pioneer® brand inoculants are developed from patented bacteria for specific crops to improve the success of the silage making process.

Pioneer Brand 1188 continues to be the product of choice for treating grass cut at 25% dry matter content or less. It has a unique ability to utilise the available sugars and lower the pH, so that a stable acid fermentation is reached as fast as possible.

To improve the aerobic stability of drier grass silage, 11A44 is recommended. 11A44 contains a single strain of Lactobacillus buchneri and can also be used to improve the stability of drier silages, including whole crop cereals, maize, and crimped moist cereal and maize grains.

For producers seeking better silage

quality combined with improved aerobic stability, 11G22 Rapid React is suitable. 11G22 utilises a combination of homofermentative lactic acid producing bacteria with heterofermentative L. buchneri bacteria to increase lactic acid

production, lowering pH quickly, followed by compounds that inhibit the growth of yeasts and moulds.

To improve the fibre digestibility of grass silage over 25% dry matter, use 11GFT which uses fibre technology.

Mode of Action	Product	Forage	Focus
Unique Fibre Technology	PIONEER® 11GFT	Grass and wholecrop cereal silages	Fermentation, animal performance and fibre digestibility, aerobic stability
	PIONEER® 11G22	High dry matter grass, wholecrop cereal and pea/cereal silages	Fermentation, animal performance and aerobic stability
Traditional Technology with Rapid React®	PIONEER® 1188	Grass silage below 30% dry matter	Fermentation and animal performance
	PIONEER® 11A44	A wide range of high dry matter silages	Aerobic stability

Grassland herbicide packaging



2020 sees the Corteva grassland herbicide range move to the new livery.

All of Corteva grassland herbicides are supplied in PET (polyethylene terephthalate) -based packaging. Our PET packaging is lightweight, strong, translucent to help gauge contents, and conical to facilitate effective triple rinsing. The caps are ergonomically designed

for ease of opening, even when wearing protective gloves. In addition, there is no foil seal, which reduces the risk of spillage in the handling areas and speeds up filling. With cap and bottle being made of the same material, there is no need to hold separate stocks for disposal.

Grassland and forage crops BASIS courses

The BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (grassland and forage crops) is ideal for those focused on the livestock sector. It enables advisors to give bespoke advice to farmers seeking support. Upon completion, participants will:

- Be aware of the different types of grassland found in the UK
- Understand the different plant species used in grassland and their role in production
- Explain how plants grow and develop through the season and the effects this has on feed value
- Understand how weed problems develop in forage crop situations and the steps appropriate to control them
- Appreciate the economic and environmental importance of grass and forage crop pest control

- Recognize potential diseases and recommend appropriate methods of prevention, treatment and control
- Understand pesticide safety and approve aspects specific to grassland/livestock farm situations
- Understand pesticide application in forage crop situations
- Understand aspects of hand-held and small scale/local pesticide application methods.

Visit [BASIS](#) to find out further details for courses being run in 2020.



Low drift nozzles

Achieving good spray coverage is important for getting sufficient amounts of the active ingredients in the herbicides onto the leaves.

Corteva Agriscience will support a water volume down to 200 litres/ha if the appropriate low drift nozzle is being used.

See the [Spraying Low Water Volumes in Grassland](#) video in the 'How To' section of the Corteva Agriscience Grassland App.

Reasons to use low drift (air induction) nozzles in grassland:

- They can support a reduction in aquatic buffer zone for LERAP B rated products (3-Star Rating)
- They create larger droplets (each containing a bubble of air). These droplets are classified as a Coarse Spray as defined by the BCPC system
- The coarser droplet enables the spray to travel accurately from the nozzle to the target
- Reduced operating pressure can result in less drift (up to 75% reduction)
- Lower water volume down to 200L/ha means up to double the area treated per sprayer tank
- Up to 50% reduction in water used

Earn BASIS Points.

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/84141/1920/g, on your training record and send to linda@basis-reg.co.uk

These details are valid until 31st May 2020.

Ask a question

Q What is the best solution for chickweed control in grassland?

A Use Envy at 1.0 L/ha in new sown leys and 2.0 L/ha on established grassland. Envy works better in cooler conditions than straight fluroxypyr and is also more effective where there is significant diurnal (day and night) temperature fluctuations.

Q How soon can I tackle weeds in my grassland this spring?

A Grass and weeds start to grow significantly when the soil temperature gets above about 6°C. However, some weeds, such as chickweed have the ability to use nitrogen in the soil very rapidly and can smother out grass very early in the season. Envy is one of the earliest products that can be used effectively in the early spring after 1 February (1 March for grass seed crops), when the temperature is just 5°C over a 24- hour period and rising.

Show dates.

Thank you to everyone who visited us on the stand at Dairy Tech 2020.

The technical team from Corteva Agriscience will be out and about at many shows and events this year, talking to farmers and agronomists and answering questions on maize hybrids, silage inoculants and how to tackle weed problems in their fields.

Catch the team at:



Feb 26th	RNAS Spring Show https://mas.org.uk/spring-show	Thainestone Agricultural Centre, Inverurie
May 7th	Royal Welsh Grassland Event www.royalwelshgrasslandevent.com	Coleg Cambria - Llysfasi, Ruthin, Denbighshire
May 20th-21st	Grassland & Muck https://www.grasslandevent.co.uk/	Ragley Estate, Alcester, Warwickshire, B49 5NJ
May 28th	NBA Beef Expo https://www.nationalbeefassociation.com/beef-expo/	Darlington Auction Farmers Market, Humbleton Park, DL2 2XX
June 3rd	NSA Scotsheep https://www.nationalsheep.org.uk/nsa-scotland/scotsheep/	Over Finlarg, Tealing, Dundee, DD4 0QE
July 28th	NSA Sheep https://www.nationalsheep.org.uk/events/diary/21750/nsa-sheep-2020/	Three Counties Showground, Malvern WR13 6NW

For regular updates on agronomic issues, find us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CortevaForage>

and Facebook: facebook.com/cortevauk

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

Discover more at 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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