

Grassland and Maize Agronomy Update

MARCH 2019



Welcome to the Corteva Agriscience Grassland and Maize Agronomy Update.

With the merger of Dow AgroSciences, DuPont Crop Protection and DuPont Pioneer, this newsletter now covers maize as well as all things grassland.

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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Leystar maize extension approval.

The application to extend the timing for use on maize has been authorised by CRD. The product may now be applied up to 'Before 7 leaves unfolded and before 30 June'.

The new Notice of Authorisation incorporating the new use is published on the CRD website. This supersedes previous notices and existing labelled product may now be used with the new recommendation. There is no MAPP number change.

Weed competition at the early stage of a maize crop can significantly affect its potential. Leystar® will control many broad-leaved weeds that emerge post sowing, including black nightshade, bindweed and knotgrass.

- Apply to maize between the third and sixth leaf stage and before the crop is more than 20 cm tall. It must not be applied once the buttress roots have started to develop on the first node
- Grass can be sown after the maize has been harvested within the year of treatment with no adverse effect
- The dose rate is the same as for new sown leys; at 1 litre/ha applied in 200 litres/ha of water
- Cereals and cereals undersown with grass are being added to the Leystar label shortly, making Leystar an even more useful product for livestock farmers
- No tank mixes permitted with other SU herbicides at present.

Dock control pre first cut with DoxstarPro.

Plan dock control now, particularly on fields destined for silage. A mild winter and warm spring days means that docks are well established and growing well.



Overwintered docks – still showing reddening of leaves – do not spray.

Docks ready to spray – healthy new leaves.

Herbicide applications need to be made a minimum of three weeks before cutting, so estimate when the first silage cut is likely to be taken, and work back at least three weeks. Use full label rates to ensure the lasting levels of control sought by farmers and lessen the need for follow up sprays. The ideal size of dock to treat is about 20 cm across – dinner-plate sized.

Doxstar® Pro translocates exceptionally well meaning it gets right down into the roots. It takes three to four weeks to do this and have a lasting effect. Applications made in early to mid-April will get rid of the weeds well ahead of first cut, giving the grass a chance to re-colonize the space left by the dead weeds. Water volumes can be reduced down to 200 L/ha if using low drift nozzles. Apply when docks are growing strongly, and have put on 2-4 healthy new leaves.

- DoxstarPro is very safe to grass – still the top concern for grassland farmers who spray herbicides.
- Stock withdrawal period is just 7 days.
- DoxstarPro will kill clover so if present and the decision is made to remove the docks then plan to reintroduce clover six weeks later.

Allow an interval of three to four weeks after application before cutting grass to optimise the effect of the herbicide. Do not roll the grass for ten days before or seven days after application. Farmers must be certified to use professional use herbicides on their fields. Those that do not hold the appropriate certification need to book a qualified contractor to come and spray their silage fields in time for treatments to be made prior to first cut.

Chickweed control.

This spring there is a lot of chickweed in grassland, with much of it already quite large. Treat chickweed now and reseed any bare patches to ensure as much grass grows as possible this spring.

Chickweed's sprawling habit, with long trailing stems and many soft green leaves means it forms a dense mat, which can easily smother the growth of newly sown grasses or swamp established leys.

The best and quickest way to eradicate chickweed is by spraying with Envy® or Leystar®.

The combination of fluroxypyr and florasulam allows them to work well at low temperatures and where there are dramatic fluctuations between day and night in the early part of the year.

Envy can be used once a year at a rate of 1.5 litre/ha in 200 litres of water/ha against chickweed in new sown leys, or 2.0 litres/ha in established grassland. Leystar can be used at 1.0 L/ha in new sown leys or at 2.0 L/ha in established grass. Both are very safe to grass and have a stock exclusion period of just seven days.

They will kill clover, so where there is a heavy population of chickweed, spray

and re-introduce the clover three months later.

Envy and Leystar control both common and mouse-ear chickweed.



Common chickweed.



Mouse-ear chickweed.

Dealing with Dandelions.

Dandelions are one of the earliest weeds to emerge in a grass sward. However, many farmers wait until dandelions are flowering before taking the decision to spray. If you know a field has a history of dandelions, then act now rather than waiting, as control is greater pre-flowering.

To achieve the best control spray before flowering, but when there is sufficient green leaf to take in the herbicide – so timing can be tight. April is an ideal month for targeting dandelions in grassland.

Dandelions are more likely to be a problem on grassland that is grazed and nutrient deficient. Such grass swards may contain less competitive grass species and so these weeds can quickly dominate.

If dandelions are the main weed, use Envy®. If there is a mixed population of dandelions and docks, use Doxstar® Pro. For a wide spectrum of weeds, including dandelions use Forefront® T. Remember Forefront T offers exceptional broad-leaved weed control, but can only be used on grazing ground grazed by cattle or sheep.



Silage inoculants.

Pioneer proprietary silage inoculants help farmers striving to make high quality silage by reducing dry matter losses and improving silage quality.

Whether making grass silage in cool, challenging conditions or maize silage in ideal conditions, understanding the benefits that come from applying the most appropriate Pioneer silage inoculant, can make dramatic differences to profitability.

The popular traditional technology products – PIONEER® 1188, PIONEER® 11G22 and PIONEER® 11A44 are fully

complemented by the Fibre Technology product range which includes PIONEER® 11GFT, PIONEER® 11CFT, PIONEER® 11AFT and PIONEER® 11CH4. Fibre Technology products all contain a unique bacterial strain that produces an enzyme that increases fibre digestion rates by freeing up nutrients from lignin in the cell wall.

New this year is the introduction of the Rapid React® versions of 11G22 and 11C33. In these versions a newly registered strain is included that significantly reduces the time needed to improve silage aerobic stability after ensiling.



Mode of Actions	Product	Forage	Purpose
Unique Fibre Technology	11GFT	Grass and wholecrop cereal silages	Fermentation, animal performance and fibre digestibility, aerobic stability
	11CFT	Maize silage	Fermentation, animal performance and fibre digestibility, aerobic stability
	11AFT	Lucerne silage	Fermentation, animal performance and fibre digestibility, aerobic stability
	11CH4	A wide range of high dry matter silages	Aerobic stability and gas production
Traditional Technology with Rapid React	PIONEER® 11G22 RAPID REACT AEROBIC STABILITY	High dry matter grass, wholecrop cereal and pea/cereal silages	Fermentation, animal performance and aerobic stability
	PIONEER® 11C33 RAPID REACT AEROBIC STABILITY	Maize silage	Fermentation, animal performance and aerobic stability
	PIONEER® 11B91 RAPID REACT AEROBIC STABILITY	Crimped maize grain	Fermentation, animal performance and aerobic stability
	PIONEER® 1188	Grass silage below 30% dry matter	Fermentation and animal performance
	PIONEER® 11A44	A wide range of high dry matter silages	Aerobic stability

New sown leys. First Dent Maize Hybrid for UK.

Many livestock farmers have been out earlier than usual drilling new grass leys this year, taking advantage of the mild winter weather and keen to make up the forage shortfall caused by last summer's drought. Grass is typically reseeded from mid-March onwards.

Many grassland herbicide products stipulate that grass should be 'established', i.e. over 12 months old at the time of treatment. The number of available herbicides for newly sown leys is limited, so Leystar® and Envy® are essential tools for use in newly established grassland. They both give broad-spectrum weed control and are very safe to grass. It is more economical and effective to treat weeds when they are small, rather than wait for them to establish and treat when they are bigger.

If chickweed is the main problem, or where significant dock populations were present at the time of reseeding, treating with Envy is a good idea, as this can be sprayed at a robust dose rate of 1.5 litres/ha. It also works well at the start of the season when there are dramatic variations in day and night time temperatures. Where there is a wide range of weeds growing, including thistles, treating with Leystar would be better as this has a broader spectrum of activity. Both Envy and Leystar are very safe to grass but will kill clover. If having legumes in the mixture is important, spray out the weeds first and stitch clover back in after three months.



After PACTS (Pioneer Accurate Crop Testing System) trials in 2017 and 2018, Pioneer has now identified variety P7034 as the first of its hybrids with 'dent' grain texture suitable for growing by UK farmers.

The highest starch yielding maize hybrids in the world are 'dent' types rather than the 'flint' types traditionally grown in the UK's maritime climate. Additionally, in dent kernels, the starch granules

are not encased in as much protein as starch granules in flint kernels and rumen bacteria can access the starch more easily.

The trial results confirmed that dent hybrid P7034 is fully adapted to growing in the UK, whilst producing more than 81% relative ruminal starch degradability. This is around 20% greater than the four bestselling competitor varieties tested at the same time.

Maize variety	No of sites	Starch	Relative Ruminal Starch Degradability	Whole Plant Digestibility
Favourable Sites				
P7034	4	36.2%	81.1%	73.1%
Competitor maize	4	33.3%	63.1%	69.7%
Competitor maize	4	33.6%	62.9%	70.5%
Competitor maize	4	35.0%	62.7%	70.6%
Competitor maize	4	34.5%	61.7%	71.4%
Less Favourable Sites				
P7034	8	32.3%	81.5%	71.6%
Competitor maize	7	33.5%	64.1%	72.2%
Competitor maize	8	29.2%	56.1%	69.7%
Competitor maize	8	33.7%	63.2%	71.1%
Competitor maize	8	32.5%	63.2%	71.9%

Nutritional profile of P7034 against four competitor maize varieties.

Show dates.

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 any of the shows listed here.

May 15th	Scotgrass www.scotgrass.co.uk	Crichton Royal Farm, Dumfries
May 21st	NSA Welsh Sheep www.nationalsheep.org.uk/events	Glynllifon College, Part of GRWP Llandrillo Menai, LL54 5DU
May 23rd	NBA Beef Expo www.nationalbeefassociation.com	North West Auctions, J36 Rural Auction Centre, Milnthorpe, Cumbria
May 30th	Scotland's Beef Event www.scottishbeefassociation.co.uk/ scotlands-beef-event	North Bethelnie Farm, Oldmeldrum, Aberdeenshire, AB51 0AN
June 5th	NSA North Sheep www.nationalsheep.org.uk/events/	North Hall Farm, Rathmell, Settle, North Yorkshire, BD24 0AJ
June 6th	Royal Welsh Grassland Event www.royalwelshgrasslandevent.com	Cardeeth Farm, Carew, Pembrokeshire, SA68 0TS
June 18th	NSA Sheep South West www.nationalsheep.org.uk/events	Southcott, Burrington, Umberleigh, Devon, EX37 9LF

Ask a question

Q Chickweed is growing very rapidly, what size of chickweed will Envy® control?

A Envy will control chickweed up to flowering, but monitor weed size and apply before it gets too large. Control will be better on smaller weeds.

Q I have a paddock with ragwort and other weeds, what herbicide should I use?

A Envy is your ideal paddock weed control product, but doesn't control ragwort. Add in 3.3 L/ha of 2,4-D for ragwort control. If plantains are a problem, then add 2.8 L/ha of 2,4-D.

Q When can silage be cut if Forefront® T is going to be used this spring?

A Forefront T should NOT be used on grass destined for silage in the year of its application. It can be used in a silage field after the last cut of silage has been taken. Grass from that field can be used to make silage the following year but resulting silage and manure must stay on the farm.

Grassland App update.



The Corteva Grassland APP is now available for download and use. Go to the APP store for IOS or Google Play for Android & search "Grassland"

Click on the Corteva Grassland APP icon and update.

You will need to

re-register – it's a one-time event.

The Forefront® T stewardship process has been simplified. All existing farmer clients will migrate across from the Dow Grassland APP. This may take up to 48 hours once the APP update has been done.



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/67615/1819/g, on your training record.

These details are valid until 31st May 2019.

For regular updates on agronomic issues, find us on Twitter: twitter.com/cortevauk 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



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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Doxstar®Pro contains fluroxypyr and triclopyr. Envy® contains fluroxypyr and florasulam. Forefront® T contains aminopyralid and triclopyr. Grazon®Pro contains clopyralid and triclopyr. Leystar® contains fluroxypyr, clopyralid and florasulam. Pas®•Tor® Agronomy Pack contains clopyralid, fluroxypyr and triclopyr. Thistlex® contains clopyralid and triclopyr.