

# Grassland and Maize Agronomy Update

AUGUST 2019



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

Welcome to the Grassland and Maize Agronomy Update from Corteva Agriscience. This will be the final Grassland and Maize Agronomy Update for 2019. 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. Do you know that previous Grassland and Maize Agronomy Update editions are available on the Grassland App? If you weren't aware, you will find them under Support Tools – Topic Sheets.

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## Sorting Thistles.



**Thistles are prominent in fields now with thistledown emerging, threatening further spread as wind-blown seed.**

Take the good opportunity to raise the need for control with customers. There is still time for thistles to be topped and for them to recover to a good growth stage for treatment with [Thistlex®](#) or the [PasTor Agronomy Pack](#).



## Late season dock control.

**Many docks did not get treated in the late spring or early summer as grass growth was so rapid, so now is a good time to target them.**

They will likely need cutting and be allowed to regrow before spraying. [Doxstar® Pro](#) and [Forefront® T](#) (after the last silage cut) are excellent products for this.



**There are many weeds, including docks and chickweed, that quickly take advantage of freshly turned, bare soil. They can easily outcompete the small seedling grasses if allowed to get too big.**

Controlling two-leaf seedling docks in re-seeds is much easier than tackling large plants with extensive roots next spring, so take the chance to get rid of them now.

Use [Envy®](#) at 1.5 L/ha in 200 L water on new sown leys once the grass has three true leaves. Envy®, which contains a combination of fluroxypyr and florasulam outperforms straight fluroxypyr because it can cope better with fluctuating diurnal temperatures in the autumn and has a wider weed spectrum.

Envy® can be applied up until the end of November. Where frosts are predicted, ensure the application is made at least 14 days before cold weather sets in. If this is not feasible wait and apply next spring.

## Leystar® use on established grassland.

**Whilst the cut-off date for Leystar® use on new sown leys is 31 August, it can be used at the 2 L/ha rate on established grass until 30 September.**



This is a good option where more than just thistles are present, as Leystar® will also control buttercups, dandelions, daisies, plantains and other perennial weeds. Farmers will probably need to top and wait two to three weeks or so to spray the weed re-growth.

## Forefront® T stewardship training.

An easy-to-use online course for:

- **BASIS Crop Protection Certificated Agronomists (Full or Grassland) who already advise on the use of Forefront® T**
- **BASIS Crop Protection Certificated Agronomists who are interested in advising on Forefront® T use for the first time.**

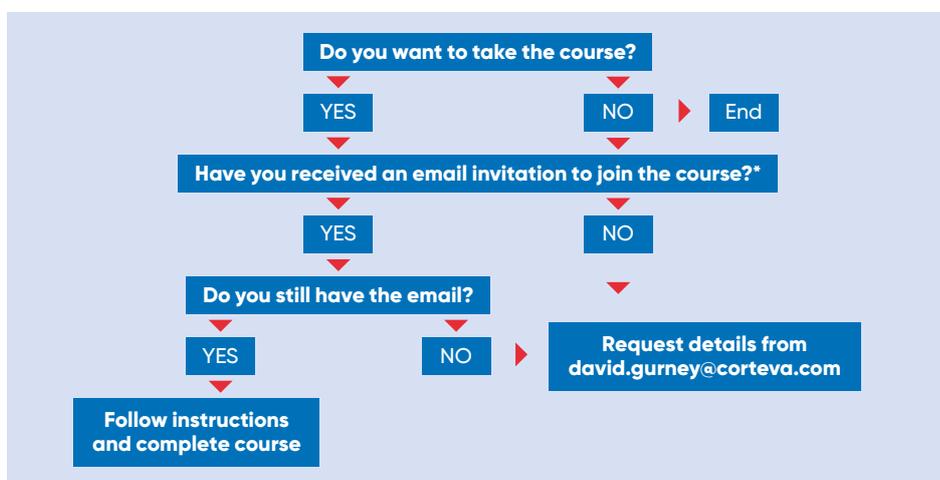
It offers an opportunity:

- **To learn/refresh your knowledge**
- **To earn 2 BASIS Points before 31st December 2019.**

The course will take experienced Forefront® T Advisors up to 35 minutes to complete.

N.B. Those wishing to become Forefront® T Advisors should allow another 10-15 minutes.

Agronomists who have not already received an invite can email [david.gurney@corteva.com](mailto:david.gurney@corteva.com) and ask to be added to the course.



\*You must receive the invitation from Corteva to be able to log in to the course.

## Forefront® T direction.



**Remind farmers who have treated pasture with Forefront® T this year of the need to pay attention to restrictions on its use, and how treated grass may be subsequently used.**

If hay or silage has inadvertently been made from grass treated with Forefront® T, it **must stay** on the farm of origin and any manure resulting from feeding must also **stay on the same farm**.

This is because minute quantities of herbicide will be in the conserved crop. When this is fed to animals and the

subsequent manure generated is used in commercial fields, gardens or allotments, certain crops – notably potatoes, tomatoes, peas and beans, which are very susceptible to herbicides, will exhibit abnormal growth effects and cropping potential may be reduced.

The potential for such a problem is greatest if hay is fed to horses and ponies, as manure is frequently collected from field and stable, then made available for use on gardens and allotments. Farmers must ensure this does not happen.

That said, Forefront® T is the herbicide of choice for a high level of control of long-established, high populations of tough-to-control weeds such as docks, thistles, buttercups, ragwort, dandelions and nettles. However, it is only recommended for treating grassland being grazed by cattle or sheep.

## Ask a question

**Q** What is the definition of a new sown ley and established grass?

**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.



**Now is a good time to treat weeds which missed being sprayed by boom applications earlier in the year, or are in tricky areas to treat with the boom sprayer, such as in gateways and around water troughs.**

[Grazon® Pro](#) is the market leading knapsack applied weed control. It translocates well into the plant's roots meaning it gives lasting control and lessens the need for repeat spraying. Grazon® Pro controls docks, thistles, nettles, brambles, gorse and broom. Use Grazon® Pro at 60 ml per 10 L water.

## Grassland APP and Forefront® T.

**There are obligations on the advisor to convey to the user the stewardship requirements of this product.**

The [Corteva Grassland APP](#) is designed to drive this process. This tool has been updated this year and the process made simpler.

Please ensure that all Forefront® T recommendations are logged, using the stewardship feature of the Grassland App.

Please call our technical hotline on **0800 6898899** if you need help with this.



## Earn BASIS Points.

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

**Please include course name 'Grassland Agronomy Update' and ref number: CP/84141/1920/g, on the training record and send to [linda@basis-reg.co.uk](mailto:linda@basis-reg.co.uk)**

**These details are valid until 31 May 2020.**



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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)**

**or go to [www.corteva.co.uk/grassland](http://www.corteva.co.uk/grassland)**

## Silage inoculants and impact on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

**40% of the losses (CO<sub>2</sub> production) occur during the front end of fermentation and 60% during the back end. Using a Pioneer inoculant containing *L. buchneri* reduces CO<sub>2</sub> production especially during that critical time when 60% of the CO<sub>2</sub> is produced.**

The *L. buchneri*, by converting a portion of the lactic acid to acetic acid, effectively minimise the activity of the lactate-utilising yeasts, reducing the conversion of lactic acid to CO<sub>2</sub>. This also keeps the pH low enough to reduce the activity of the aerobic microorganisms that degrade acetate and ethanol to CO<sub>2</sub>.

The net result is that *L. buchneri* will reduce the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> generated from the silage more than silage treated only with lactic acid generating 'Lactic Acid bacteria' (LAB) since lactic acid does not inhibit the lactate-utilising yeast, which are responsible for initiating heating during feed out.

So, for silage still to be made in 2019 use Pioneer products that contain *L. buchneri*, such as 11G22 RR on grass and Pioneer Brand 11C33 on maize.

Not only will both products improve production efficiency, but they will also contribute to limiting your production of greenhouse gases, which are believed to speed up climate change.