App features
Page 2

Best time to treat ragwort
Page 3

Maize herbicides
Page 4

Grassland and Maize Agronomy Update

CORTEVA™ agriscience

May 2021

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

Welcome to the latest 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.

Don't forget to claim your 2 CPD points for subscribing to this newsletter. If you are not a subscriber and want to sign up then please go to: **https://www.corteva.co.uk/contact-us/sign-up.html** and complete your details.

You can unsubscribe at anytime by emailing: **cortevauk@corteva.com**

Contents

Spotlight on Grazon Pro

Grazon® Pro is one of only a few grassland herbicides which have approval for use through a hand-held applicator such as a knapsack sprayer.

For best effect, control perennial weeds like docks and thistles before they produce flowering bodies. If they have flowered then it is advisable to cut down to the ground before spraying the regrowth two to three weeks later. But woody weeds such as bramble bushes, gorse and broom do not need cutting back and should be sprayed thoroughly, wetting all of the foliage, by avoiding any run-off. These woody weeds are best sprayed from June through to August.

Grazon Pro, containing clopyralid and triclopyr, is a powerful professional-use product and spray operators must be certified to apply it. They should also wear personal protective equipment (PPE), gloves, coveralls and rubber boots when spraying.

The rate of application is 60ml in 10 litres of water. After application, livestock and horses should be excluded for at least seven days. Grazon Pro is very safe to grass and is rainfast in only two hours.

Grazon Pro also gives good control over invasive weeds like Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed.

The Voluntary Initiative have produced a useful operator checklist for use when knapsack spraying: https://voluntaryinitiative.org.uk/media/1285/knapsackchecklistandcalibration.pdf

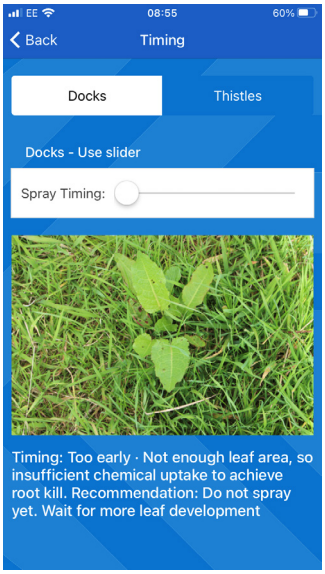
New FarmMoreForage App
Feature Focus: Dock Spray Timing

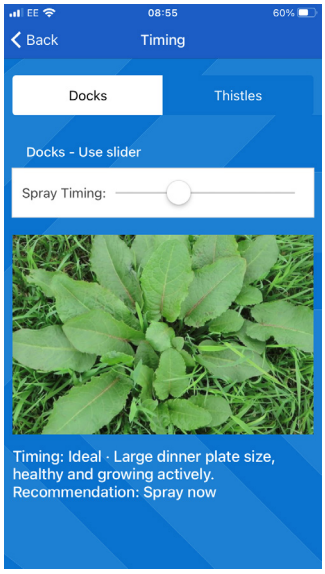
The Corteva Grassland App is about to be updated to a new and improved FarmMoreForage App for Advisors.

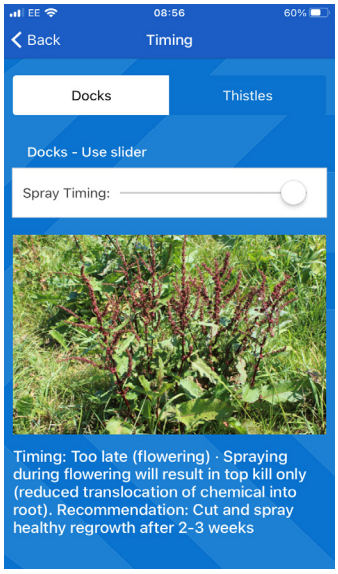
The FarmMoreForage App will cover all our Forage solutions - Grassland & Maize herbicides, Silage inoculants and Maize hybrids.

The App provides you with comprehensive technical help and stewardship at your fingertips. This month we feature dock spray timings, and the silage inoculant decision tree.

For the best control of grassland weeds, it is important to target them when they are at the correct growth stage and actively growing. The Dock and Thistle Spray Timing tool (find in 'Weed Control' on the Main Menu) provides visual guidance of when weeds are either too small for treatment, are at the perfect size for spraying, or when weeds have got too large for spraying and the weeds you have present in the field need topping and the regrowth spraying. Simply use the slider to scroll through the photographs and compare the stages with the weeds you have present in the field.







This year's weather impact on silage quality

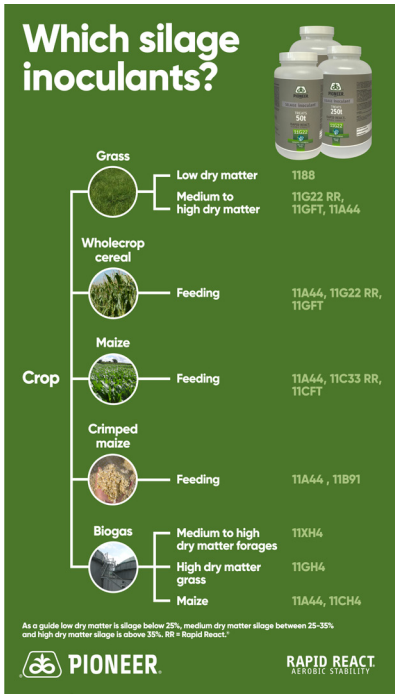
The cold nights and dry, sunny days experienced in many parts of the country this spring have meant much slower grass growth. With first cut delayed on some farms to allow grass growth to catch up, this year, more than ever, silage inoculants can play a key role in helping to produce the best quality silage.

With the slower grass growth seen this spring, nitrogen applications may not have been fully utilised producing grass with high N levels. This can result in silage with high ammonia and butyric acid levels, leading to protein degradation, making it less palatable and depressing feed intakes. In extreme cases, 'gassing off' caused by excess levels of nitrous oxide can occur, and awareness of the risk that such gas poses to the safety of people working near to the clamp should always be considered.

In addition to this, the relatively high levels of UV-radiation and low night-time temperatures, mean we expect to see low levels of naturally-occurring lactic acid bacteria, critical for making quality silage.

Silage inoculants can counteract this. Inoculants containing homofermentative bacteria help reduce the risk of butyric acid fermentation impacting silage quality and preventing poor performance from forage.

Silage inoculants have an important role to play whatever the weather conditions – they are not just an insurance policy if the weather is bad. The aim is always to produce rapidly and well fermented silage with no yeast or mould content and with a sufficiently high dry matter content. This gives a better feed value and drives intakes. Choose an inoculant based on the conditions, the timing of a cut and any anticipated challenges.



Need help choosing the right silage inoculant solution? Use the Silage Inoculant Decision Tree link in the app once its launched.

Speed of Weed Kill When Using Corteva Grassland Herbicides

All our grassland herbicides are translocated products, meaning they do not show the quick visual effects on above ground biomass seen when using other types of products. This effect helps the herbicide active ingredients translocate right down to the weed roots, giving long lasting control. Maximum translocation of product down in to the roots can be quite quick but give time for the weed biomass to die back so where practical don't cut treated grass until 28 days after application.

Water Volumes

Grassland represents a different spraying challenge to spraying arable crops, with travelling speed likely to be reduced. Grassland typically is a more undulating and uneven surface with hoof tracks, wheelings, poaching and lack of tramlines all making it a slower job. In order to speed up spraying times, there may be a temptation to reduce water volumes.

In our experience, reducing water volume on perennial grassland weeds such as docks, can reduce both efficacy and root kill due to leaves being scorched by the higher concentration of chemical, resulting in reduced uptake into the plant and roots. This increase in chemical concentration can be illegal as the concentration is part of the registration for the product. It could increase operator exposure too.

We strongly recommend following the guidelines from the manufacturer and if a contractor is used, be sure to specify the water volume to be used.

Thistlex and Pas·Tor Supply Constraints

As advised in the April edition of GAMA Thistlex® and Pas®·Tor® maybe difficult to source this spring. In situations where thistles are the target weed use Lontrel™ 600 as an alternative to Thistlex. In cattle and sheep grazing situations where Pas·Tor would have been used, where appropriate use Forefront® T.

Lontrel 600

Lontrel™ 600
HERBICIDE

Lontrel™ 600 (MAPP no. 16821) is a short-term replacement solution for Thistlex while we await approval of an update formulation spec. use Lontrel 600 where thistles are the target weed. The application rate of 0.33L /ha on grassland delivers 198 g ai/ha clopyralid – an equivalent level of active to Thistlex and this will control of all thistle species. Lontrel 600 will not control nettles, for nettle control use Forefront T or spot treatment with Grazon Pro where weed populations are below 5%. Lontrel 600 is available in a 1 litre PET pack.

Controlling Ragwort at the Rosette Stage

Now is an ideal time to treat ragwort in cattle and sheep grazing fields with Forefront® T. Forefront T will give far better control of ragwort than using a 2,4-D based product. It is important to target smaller plants whilst they are still at the rosette stage at up to 200mm across, and treat before the ragwort moves in to stem extension.

Cutting ragwort just encourages new and vigorous regrowth and the dying plants pose a great danger to livestock. It can also encourage the plant to develop a perennial-type growth habit.

Treat now as the ragwort plants are showing active growth and still fairly small so they will senesce more quickly enabling stock return in a more acceptable window.

Clopyralid and Hay Crops

There is a growing role for manure to part replace peat in some manufactured composts and more home-grown vegetable production drawing on local livestock / equestrian businesses for manure. As a result of this, we are advising that clopyralid containing products (Thistlex, Pas·Tor, Lontrel 600 or Leystar) should not be used on grass which will be made into hay. This will significantly reduce the likelihood of clopyralid residues ending up in manure and having an unwelcome consequence where its use may end up on sensitive crops. Our grassland containing clopyralid labels will be updated in the near future to reflect this as we continually seek to minimise effect of pesticides in non target areas.

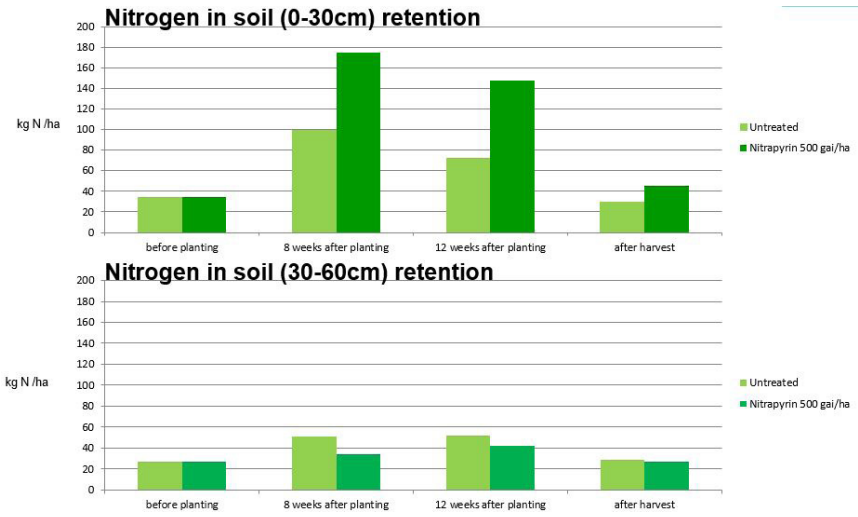
PACTS Trials drilling 2021

Despite the cold spring, soil temperatures have now wholly reached the minimum 8 degrees centigrade recommended for drilling maize and the majority of the Pioneer maize PACTS trials have now been sown.

Optinyte

With another exceptionally dry spring this year, it is understandable that concerns about nitrate leaching will not have been uppermost in the minds of many. However with recent rainfall, and with more rain forecast, combined with warming soils, the threat of nitrate leaching returns. Using a nitrogen stabiliser, such as N-Lock™ and Instinct™, will ensure that nitrogen losses from leaching will be minimised. This means that more nitrogen is kept in the soil for longer, making more nitrogen available to the growing crop.

A number of trials have been established across the country and we'll keep you updated with the results as the season progresses.



Accent and Leystar Maize Herbicides

Weed competition at the early stage of a maize crop can significantly affect its potential. Accent® **is a broad-spectrum herbicide for weed control in forage maize and controls a range of grass and broad-leaved weeds.** Leystar will control many broad-leaved weeds that emerge post-sowing, including black nightshade, bindweed, chickweed and knotgrass. Where high populations of fat-hen are present, do not rely on Leystar for control of this weed.

Apply Accent at a rate of 60g/ha, from the two leaf stage (BBCH 12) up to and including the eight leaf stage of crop growth (BBCH 18). Leystar can be applied to forage maize at a maximum dose rate of 1.0 L/ha when forage maize is between the 3-6 leaf stage and before the crop is over 20 cm tall, up until 30 June. Do not apply once the buttress roots have started to develop on the first node. For optimum performance it is important to check that weeds are within the specified size range before application.

Ask a question

Q What can I use to control Umbellifers (Apiaceae) such as cow parsley and hogweed in grassland using a hand-held lance?

A Although not label weeds, Grazon Pro should give moderate control of cow parsley and good controlUmbelliferous weeds. If weeds have started to flower, then top them to remove the flowering stems, and spray the regrowth two to three weeks later.

Q Can Pioneer silage inoculants now be used in organic farming?

A Yes, Following recent certification, organic farmers can also benefit from using Pioneer's inoculant range. But they're not just for use in organic systems. Pioneer Brand 1188 remains a popular choice for farmers ensiling grass cut at 25% dry matter content or less. Containing six strains of lactic acid-producing bacteria, 1188 enhances fermentation by using nearly all available sugar types and rapidly lowering pH.

Forefront T Stewardship Training Reminder

If you wish to take our Forefront T Stewardship Course for Advisors or receive a copy of our guide on using the Forefront T Stewardship Record Management Tool, which is included in the FarmMoreForage App, please contact ukhotline@corteva.com.

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/100772/2021/g, on your training record and send to:

cpd@basis-reg.co.uk

These details are valid until 31st May 2021.

BASIS

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, go to www.corteva.co.uk/forage.html

CORTEVA™ agriscience

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.

Corteva Agriscience Limited,
CPC2 Capital Park, Fulbourn, Cambridge CB21 5XE. Tel: 01462 457272.