

NEW PASTURE WEED MANAGEMENT

A Weed Control Guide

Planning a weed control programme for new grass will help you grow healthy and persistent pasture



Introduction to weed control in new pasture

In new grass, many believe that if the weeds are small they won't cause any short term pasture damage. However, research shows that leaving this spray out of your pasture plan can have both short and long term effects on both clover and grass production.

In the short term, seedling weeds affect pasture composition as they vigorously compete for nutrients, moisture, light and most importantly, space. Early removal of these weeds allows for more rapid and even pasture establishment resulting in an increased amount of feed for stock.

In the long term, poor establishment of newly sown pasture results in a decrease in pasture productivity and an increase in chemical costs from the extra weed control requirements down the track.

There are two options to spray for weeds in new pasture: prior to the first grazing (best option) and after the first grazing. The stage you choose is dependent on the species and size of the target weeds and will determine the correct product(s) to use.

Pre-grazing weed control

The best time to spray new pasture is prior to the first grazing when it has at least 70% ground cover. This is typically 3–6 weeks after sowing and weeds will still be small.

Why is 70% ground cover important?

Phenoxy herbicides can be absorbed from the soil by the roots of germinating grasses and clovers. When applied to new pastures during the emergence phase this soil uptake caused seedling mortality. Once the canopy of pasture and weeds reached 70% ground cover this reduced soil contact and the subsequent loss of clover and grass seedlings.

Light grazing is a quick graze often for just a few hours to nip off the grass leaves which stimulates tillering and exposes weeds. Small clovers are usually left untouched. Full grazing is when pasture is well grazed to remove clover leaf and expose weeds.



17 days after application with Tribal Gold. Left: treated with Tribal Gold at 5L/ha. Right: Untreated.

Tribal® Gold

Selective Herbicide

Tribal Gold is the ultimate selective herbicide for early control of broadleaf weeds in newly sown pasture. Developed specifically for New Zealand pastoral farmers, Tribal Gold provides outstanding control of a wide range of broadleaf weeds.



KEY BENEFITS

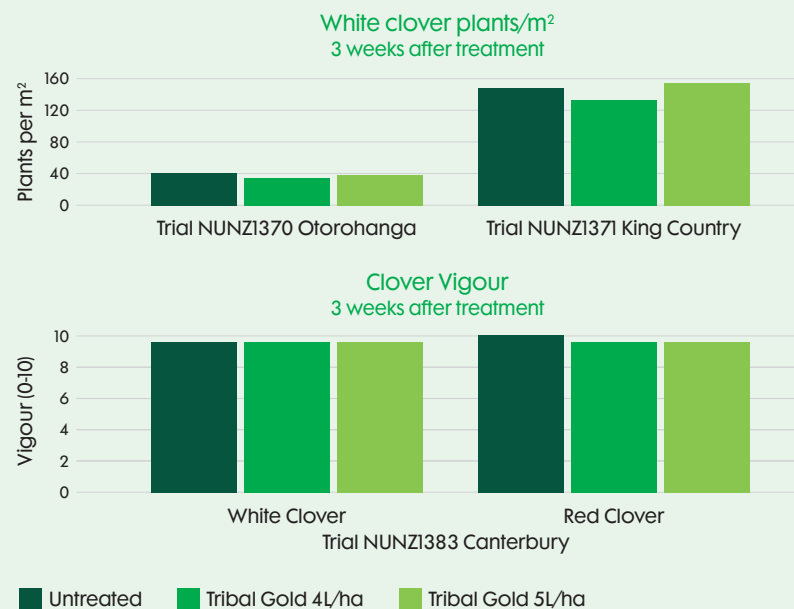
- Control of a wide spectrum of broadleaf weeds
- Clover and grass friendly – allows early weed control
- Convenient pre-mixed, liquid formulation that is easy to measure, mix and use
- 2 hour rainfastness.

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS

Tribal Gold contains 300g/L MCPB, 20g/L MCPA and 10g/L flumetsulam as the dimethylamine salts.

Excellent clover safety

Tribal Gold has excellent clover safety. Some temporary suppression may occur, but recovery is rapid.



Alternative pre-grazing weed control



THISTROL® PLUS

Thistrol Plus is a clover-friendly herbicide that will control a wide range of seedling broadleaf weeds in newly sown pastures. Thistrol Plus has two hours rainfastness which is ideal for unpredictable autumn or spring weather conditions.

Thistrol Plus is a good option where the spectrum of weeds present is not as extensive as those controlled by Tribal Gold.



DICTATE® 480

Dictate 480 is a fast acting clover and plantain safe option for clover/grass and clover/plantain/grass based pastures. Ideal in situations where crops sensitive to phenoxy herbicides (e.g. grapes) are nearby. Do not graze for 14 days after application.



VALDO® 800WG

Valdo 800WG is the only safe option for new pasture that contains a grass/clover/chicory mix. Phenoxy herbicides will cause serious damage to chicory. Valdo 800WG should be applied with Bonza® Gold to ensure good coverage and uptake. Do not graze for 14 days after application.

Pre-grazing tank-mix options

PRODUCT COMBINATION	WEEDS	NOTES
Valdo 800WG and Thistrol Plus 3–4L/ha Thistrol Plus + 65g/ha Valdo 800WG to broaden spectrum of weeds controlled	Chickweed, stinking mayweed	The addition of Valdo 800WG to Thistrol Plus will broaden the spectrum of weeds controlled. This includes two key damaging weeds in new pastures: chickweed and stinking mayweed. These weeds can completely smother seedlings and can prevent clover from establishing effectively.

Pre-grazing weed control

Application rates and timing

HERBICIDE	RATE	WEEDS	NOTES
Tribal Gold	4–5L/ha in 100–300L of water + Bonza Gold at 500ml/100L of water	Chickweed, cleavers, fathen, fleabane, hedge mustard, mallow, plantain, redroot, shepherd's purse, spurrey, wild radish, annual buttercup, creeping yellow cress, Scotch thistle, yellow gromwell, black nightshade, giant buttercup, twin cress, thistles (Californian, nodding, winged, variegated), cornbind, docks, sorrel, sow thistle, stinking mayweed, wild turnip, willow weed, wire weed, field pansy, henbit, oxeye daisy	Apply when clovers have at least 2 trifoliate leaves and weeds are still seedlings. Soil temperatures <u>must</u> be above 10°C and not under stress from drought or water logging.
Thistrol Plus	3–4L/ha	Annual buttercup, fathen, Scotch thistle, black nightshade, redroot, twin cress, giant buttercup, thistles (Californian, nodding, winged, variegated), docks, hedge mustard, wild turnip, plantain, willow weed	Apply when clovers have at least two trifoliate leaves. Spray when weeds are between the cotyledon and three to four leaf stage. Soil temperatures must be above 10°C and not under stress from heavy frosts or in wet or drought conditions.
Dictate 480	3L/ha + Contact™ Xcel at 25ml/100L water.	Chamomiles, cleavers, Onhunga weed, stinking mayweed, storksbill, black nightshade, chickweed, fathen, giant buttercup, redroot, shepherd's purse, spurrey, thorn apple, wild turnip, willow weed	Apply when white clovers have 1–2 trifoliate leaves and plantain 2–4 leaves. For best results spray during warm weather. Always use a minimum of 300L water/ha.
Valdo 800WG	65g/ha + Bonza Gold at 500ml/100L water	Hedge mustard, wild radish, annual buttercups, cresses, giant buttercup, oxeye daisy, willow weed	Apply when clovers have at least 2 trifoliate leaves. Chicory should have 2–4 leaves.

Post-grazing weed control

After the first full grazing, weeds tend to be larger and more difficult to control. Controlling these weeds allows for improved pasture production/utilisation.

Baton® 800WSG

Selective Herbicide

Baton 800WSG is a selective phenoxy herbicide that provides excellent weed control in new pasture. Baton 800WSG's water soluble granule formulation is low odour, non-volatile and is less damaging to valuable clovers than other 2,4-D formulations.



KEY BENEFITS

- Non-volatile and low odour 2,4-D
- Controls broadleaf weeds in new pasture, established pasture and cereals
- Clover friendly
- Ideal for aerial and boom spraying

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS

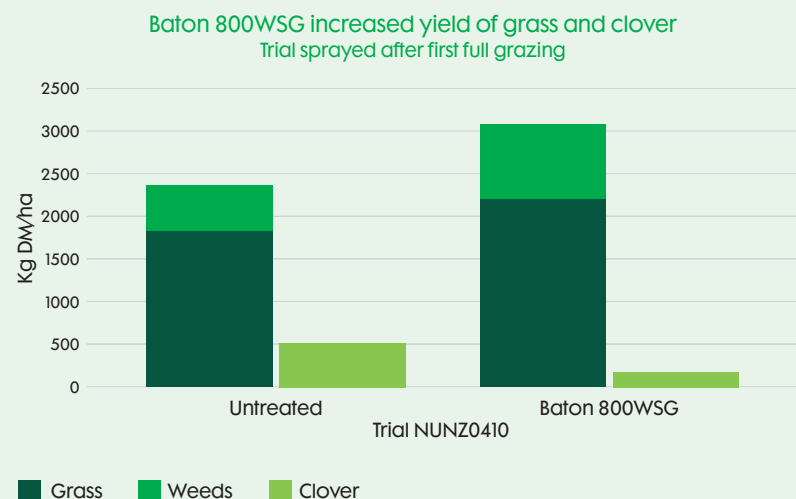
Baton 800WSG contains 800g/kg 2,4-D in a water soluble granule formulation.



Clover in pasture

Improved pasture composition

A trial comparing the dry matter (DM) yield and composition of sprayed and unsprayed newly sown pasture indicated that while total yield (kg DM/ha) is often similar between pastures, the big benefit is improved pasture composition. A large increase in the valuable feed components of autumn sown pasture (grass and clover) was measured when Baton 800WSG was applied after the first full graze.



The trial results showed:

- Clover DM increased by 66%
- Grass DM increased by 23%
- Weed DM decreased by 80%

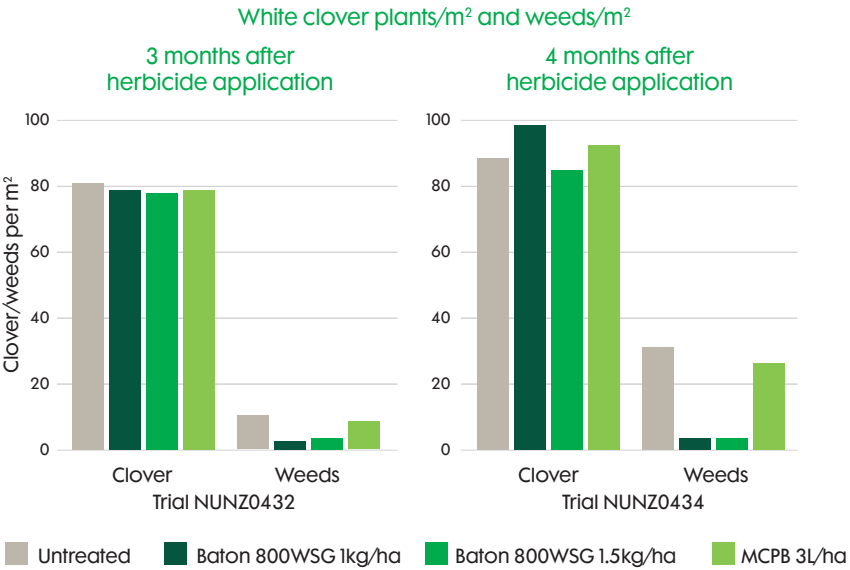
The extra DM, or feed, has an economic value to the farmer. To buy in feed to substitute for the extra 621kg DM grown it could cost between 20–40c/kg DM or \$124–\$248. Given that the extra DM was only measured at one point in time and the differences would be ongoing, controlling weeds is a very economic option.

For more information, refer to Grassmanship on page 15 – an app developed by Nufarm to calculate the benefits of weed control on pasture production.

Effect of Baton 800WSG on white clover

Provided new pasture is fully grazed to remove clover leaf prior to spraying recommended rates of Baton 800WSG, minimal white clover damage/suppression should occur. Results from replicated field trials (see graph below) show similar numbers of white clover plants in Baton 800WSG treated plots and untreated plots 3–4 months after herbicide application.

White clover growth was initially reduced, but production cuts at 4–6 months after herbicide application showed the clover suffered no long-term effects. In fact, due to reduced competition from weeds, clover production was enhanced relative to the untreated areas.



The addition of Valdo 800WG to Baton 800WSG will broaden the spectrum of weeds controlled. Adding adjuvants and oils to Baton 800WSG can increase the level of clover damage. Bonza Gold must be used with Valdo 800WG.

On-farm experience indicates that in general, Baton 800WSG, Valdo 800WG + Bonza Gold tank mixes have had little long term effect on clovers and that leaving chickweed or other weeds uncontrolled will potentially have a greater effect on pasture establishment and productivity.

Post-grazing weed control

Application rates and timing

HERBICIDE	RATE	WEEDS	NOTES
Baton 800WSG	1–1.5kg/ha + Valdo 800WG + Bonza Gold	Chickweed, spurrey, redroot, cleavers, black nightshade, shepherd's purse, mallow, creeping yellow cress, yellow gromwell, stinking mayweed, wireweed, sorrel, field pansy, henbit, oxeye daisy, nettle, thistles, fumitory, storksbill	Apply 3–7 days after the first full grazing. Grazing both exposes the weeds and removes much of the clover leaf, thus reducing the herbicide uptake by the clover and minimising damage. Grazing should be delayed for about 14 days as early grazing may reduce the level of weed control.



New Pasture crop cycle

Continual use of the same mode of action products can result in resistance development in weed populations.

Where possible it is important to rotate modes of action herbicides. To aid in this, the modes of action for the herbicides are presented next to the product in green circles.

PRE-PLANT	SEED PLANTED	PRE-GRAZING	POST-GRAZING
<div>CRUCIAL</div> <div>ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY HERBICIDE</div> <div>9</div>	<div>SlugOut[®]</div>	<div>THISTROL[®] PLUS</div> <div>4</div>	<div>Baton[®]</div> <div>800WSG</div> <div>4</div>
<div>NAHL 660</div> <div>14</div>		<div>Nufarm VALDO[®]</div> <div>800WG</div> <div>2</div>	
<div>Charter[™]</div> <div>750WDG</div> <div>2</div>		<div>Nufarm TRIBAL[™] GOLD</div> <div>2</div> <div>4</div>	
<div>SERO[®] 750</div> <div>2</div>		<div>Nufarm DICTATE[®] 480</div> <div>6</div>	
<div>PULSE PENETRANT</div>		<div>BONZA GOLD</div>	
<div>amigo</div>		<div>CONTACT[™] XCEL</div>	
<div>SPRAY OUT PRE-PLANT</div>	<div>SEED PLANTED</div>	<div>SMALL SEEDLINGS</div>	<div>POST-GRAZING</div>

New pasture crop cycle

New pasture crop cycle

Working out what you need

PRODUCT	APPLICATION RATES	TOTAL HA'S REQUIRED	AMOUNT REQUIRED
Tribal Gold	4–5L/ha		
Thistrol Plus	3–4L/ha		
Dictate 480	3L/ha		
Valdo 800WG	65g/ha		
Baton 800WSG	1–1.5kg/ha		
Bonza Gold	500ml/100L water		
Contact Xcel	25ml/100L water		



Nufarm have developed a tool to calculate the benefit controlling weeds can have on pasture production and ultimately farm production and profit.

Weeds can severely impact pasture, reducing the effective production and consumption of a pasture. The Grassmanship app allows you to generate more profit from your pasture, minimise supplementary feed costs and maximise your home-grown feed.

For more information about the benefit that you can have from weed control in your pasture, visit grassmanship.nz or scan the QR code below.





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Grow a better tomorrow

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