



Winter Weed Control

One of the best ways to maximise production from your existing pasture is to keep it weed-free with a broadleaf weed spray programme. A late autumn/early winter spray can be an ideal component in a programme on many farms, for a variety of reasons. Problem weeds like ragwort, buttercup and thistles germinate in autumn, and phenoxy herbicide applications are most effective and economic while weeds are still small and actively growing. Controlling these weeds allows for improved pasture utilisation, which in turn can increase farm productivity as more quality dry matter is available during the late winter, spring and summer periods.

Nufarm's phenoxy herbicide package of Baton® 800WSG, Sprinter® 700DS, Relay® Super S and Agritone® 750 often forms the basis of broadleaf winter weed control in established pastures. As weeds get bigger they become more difficult to control and require higher product rates and/or the addition of a spike herbicide, such as Archer® 750 or Conquest® to maintain the efficacy.

Checklist for successful control

The following are a few key tips when applying these herbicides in established pastures to help you achieve the best possible results:

- Make sure to check with your local council regarding regulations for phenoxy herbicide applications
- Spray weeds while small and actively growing
- Graze prior to spraying to expose weeds; allow 3–7 days for the weeds to freshen and then spray
- Don't spray weeds under stress (frost, drought, water logging)
- Delay application if rain is likely within 2 hours of using Agritone 750 or Relay Super S or 6 hours when using Baton 800WSG or Sprinter 700DS.

Herbicide timing and clover

Baton 800WSG is the most clover-friendly broadleaf phenoxy herbicide option. It can be used year-round, and works best on small weeds. Sprinter 700DS is a liquid amine that like Baton 800WSG is safer on clover than traditional ester formulations like Relay Super S, and has more flexible application periods. It has less effect on weeds that are not actively growing so avoid spraying during cold frosty weather. Relay Super S and Agritone 750 suppress clover and should only be applied when clover is dormant.

Withholding periods and grazing

It is a good agricultural practice to keep livestock out of pastures which have been sprayed with Agritone 750, Baton 800WSG, Relay Super S or Sprinter 700DS for a minimum of 1 day. However, once sprayed, delaying grazing further for 10–14 days will improve both product uptake and weed control. Also, some poisonous plants (eg. Ragwort) may become more palatable to stock when sprayed, so stock must be kept away from these plants until they have died down.

Weed control guide

Agritone 750	Nodding, scotch, variegated and winged thistle, annual buttercup
Relay Super S, Baton 800WSG	Ragwort, twin cress, dandelion, storksbill, dock, thistles
Sprinter 700DS	Seedling ragwort, dock, thistles



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Application timing and use rates

PROBLEM	MAIN TIMINGS	COMMENTS	MAIN PRODUCT				SPIKE PRODUCT	
			Agritone[™] 750	Relay[®] SUPER S	Baton[®] 800WSG	sprinter[®] 700 0DS	ARCHER[®] 750	Conquest[®]
NODDING THISTLE	Primary Germination: Autumn	Seedlings: Seedlings to small rosettes (root crown less than 2cm)	1.5–2L/ha	1.5L/ha	2kg/ha	2.3L/ha		
	Recommended Application: Winter	Rosettes: Root crown 2–4cm diameter, prior to flower stalk development	2–3L/ha	2–2.3L/ha	2.5–3.5kg/ha	2.8–3.4L/ha	40–80ml/ha	250ml/ha
WINGED THISTLE	Primary Germination: Autumn	Seedlings: Seedlings only	1.5L/ha	1.5L/ha	2kg/ha	2.3L/ha		
	Recommended Application: Winter	Rosettes: Prior to flower stalk development	2–3L/ha	2–2.3L/ha	2.5–3kg/ha	2.8L/ha	40–80ml/ha	250ml/ha
VARIEGATED THISTLE	Primary Germination: Autumn	Seedlings: Seedlings only	1.5L/ha	1.5L/ha	1.5–2kg/ha	1.8–2.3L/ha		
	Recommended Application: Winter	Rosettes: Prior to flower stalk development	2–3L/ha	2–2.3L/ha	2–3kg/ha	2.3–3.4L/ha	40–80ml/ha	250ml/ha
SCOTCH THISTLE	Primary Germination: Spring Recommended Application: Spring	Seedlings and Rosettes: Apply low rate for seedlings	1.5–2L/ha	0.75–1.5L/ha	1–2kg/ha	1.2–2.3L/ha		
RAGWORT	Primary Germination: Autumn	Seedlings: Seedlings to small rosettes (root crown less than 2cm)		2L/ha	2kg/ha	2.3L/ha		
	Recommended Application Winter	Rosettes: Root crown 2–4cm diameter, prior to flower stalk development		3L/ha	2.5–3kg/ha	2.8–3.4L/ha		250–500ml/ha

Any plants larger than a 4cm rosette or that are multicrowned, always add a spike product to ensure control

Controlling other broadleaf pasture weeds

Other broadleaf weeds that germinate during autumn and early winter include twin cress, storksbill and docks. These weeds also compete for light, space, nutrients and moisture which can impact pasture production. Small seedling docks may be controlled by Baton 800WSG, Relay Super S or Sprinter.

Docks contain tannins which makes them unpalatable to some classes of livestock, especially cattle and horses. Sheep will generally graze them meaning docks can become problems on dairy farms. See our Dockstar[®] brochure for more effective spring control.

Twin cress is an annual weed which typically germinates during spring and autumn. As a seedling, it is a rosette rather than a creeping plant. Twin cress can cause problems on dairy farms if it is eaten by lactating cows, as this milk from cows can develop a taint, which can be refused by some milk companies.

Storksbill can be an annual or biennial weed species. It can cause problems in pastures through its sharp seed-heads. These sharply pointed fruits can enter the wool of sheep reducing its value. It can also cause photosensitisation and staggers in lambs and cattle.

	Sprinter 700DS	Baton 800WSG	Relay Super S
TIMING	Autumn and early winter – seedlings and small plants	Autumn and early winter – seedlings and small rosettes	Winter – seedlings and small plants
RATES	1.8–3.6L/ha	1.5–3.0kg/ha	0.75–3.0L/ha

The information contained is a quick reference only. Always consult the product label before use.



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