

TECHNOTE

UNDERSTANDING THE EFFECT OF AGTRYNE MA ON DESIRABLE SPECIES

Farmers and agronomists note that, on occasions, Agtryne MA has an effect on clovers, cereal crops and young grasses. Many weed free trials confirm that this does not usually affect yield (see Figures 1 and 2).

The purpose of this Technote is to outline the circumstances under which crop effect may occur and thus minimise farmer concerns.

1. Stress

Plants under stress from waterlogging, dry soils or prolonged cloudy weather can be affected by terbutryn (active in Agtryne MA), because the metabolic processes in the desirable plant are reduced by the stress and the plant is unable to detoxify the active.

2. High light intensity and temperatures

High light intensity and high temperatures both increase the degree and rapidity of injury from terbutryn. Hence the label requirement not to spray if the ambient temperature exceeds 18°C.

That is, the temperature on the day before spraying, the day of spraying and for four days after spraying should be below 18°C.

3. Plant size and state

Young grasses, clovers and cereal plants cannot metabolise terbutryn as well as more mature plants. Also plants that are 'soft' ie have not gone through a period of frost, are more susceptible.

The label states that 3 true leaves is the earliest stage for spraying Agtryne MA onto grasses and cereals. Sub clovers must be at least 3 true leaves and white clover must be at least 5 true leaves.

4. Application followed by frost

Terbutryn reduces the cold tolerance of the plants. Thus avoid spraying during frosty periods. However early sown crops are more tolerant if sprayed after a period of cooler, frosty weather, (refer to point 3.)

5. Don't add wetters or oils to Agtryne MA

These additives increase uptake and crop effect and this is why Agtryne MA can't be applied with grass herbicides.

Oats are more sensitive to Agtryne MA than wheat or barley and new varieties are tested each year in the cereal tolerance screens

at Wagga Wagga. Years of testing have shown that despite some initial foliar injury grain yields have not been affected when compared to untreated varieties. A list of tolerant grain oat varieties is available from Nufarm.

Agtryne MA is increasingly useful in higher rainfall areas because it gives excellent cost effective control of important weeds such as capeweed, toadrush, erodium species, Patersons curse and fumitory.

Factors affecting cereal/pasture safety	Always try to	Always avoid
Plants under stress	Ensure good soil moisture	
High temperature		Days over 18° C
Plant size and state	Spray crops/pasture at label rates	'Soft' crops
Frost		Spraying in frosty conditions
Oils and wetters	Never add oils and wetters	

Figure 1: Sub clover vigour. Trial in sub clover and grass pasture.

Trial: Strathbogie, Vic, 1996.

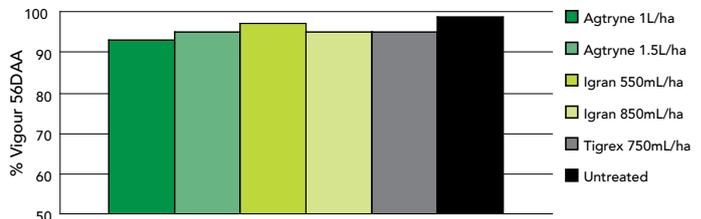
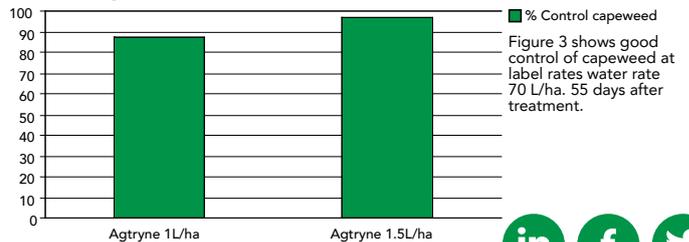


Figure 2: Capeweed control by Agtryne MA in sub clover and grass pasture.

Trial: Strathbogie, Vic, 1997.



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