

# TECHNOTE THE DREAM TEAM FOR DRILL-SOWN RICE

## Drill sown rice areas has increased over recent years as a crop establishment option.

Drill sown rice is a favorable sowing option, as it enables:

- Spread of irrigation timing. Drill sowing enables a manageable portion of the crop to be planted prior to flushing. The remaining acreage may then be planted via conventional aerial sowing to permanent water.
- Reduced water usage at crop establishment in seasons where irrigation water supplies are limited.
- Improved rice crop establishment in regions where ducks traditionally invade aerial sown rice and cause significant damage to plant populations, often resulting in re-sowing.
- Robust early season knockdown and residual control of problem grass weeds.

From a herbicide program perspective, the application of Director® 480EC (480g/L clomazone) plus Rifle® 440 (440g/L pendimethalin) is ideally suited to the drill-sown rice technique. Director 480EC and Rifle 440 are applied as a tank mix post sowing to dry soil following the first irrigation flush, and prior to rice crop emergence. A subsequent irrigation flush is required within 2-5 days to activate these residual herbicides if rainfall has not occurred within this timeframe. **Shirquat 250 (250g/L paraquat)** may also be added to the tank mix to control emerged annual grass and broadleaf weeds though **this mix must be applied prior to rice crop emergence.**

### IDEALLY, A DRILL SOWN RICE CROP STRATEGY WOULD CONSIST OF:

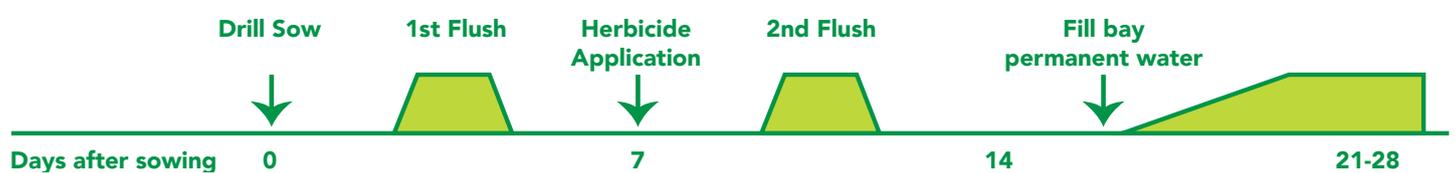
1. Pre-plant application of Gladiator OptiMAX (540g/L glyphosate) for knockdown control of emerged weeds. This technique

is also favourable from a herbicide resistance management perspective, as it utilises a different herbicide group from conventional rice crop herbicides (Group M).

2. Drill-sow rice shallow (1-2cm) in the soil profile to promote rapid emergence. Planting deep can place undesirable stresses on emerging seedlings and subject them to herbicide damage.
3. Flush the newly planted rice crop with irrigation water.
4. For barnyard grass (*Echinochloa* spp.), silvertop grass (*Leptochloa fusca*), and sedge control, apply Director 480 at 400mL/ha plus Rifle 440 at 3.4L/ha, and add Shirquat 250 at 800mL/ha to control newly germinated grass and broadleaf weeds prior to rice crop emergence
5. Rainfall within 2-5 days will incorporate Director 480 and Rifle 440 to control subsequent germinations, otherwise a second irrigation flush will be required within that timeframe.
6. Apply permanent water when the rice has emerged and within 14 days of the herbicide application, prior to the soil profile drying out. If the newly emerged rice cannot tolerate permanent water, varying the level of irrigation water to suit the rice growth stage with a view to increasing levels of permanent water as soon as appropriate (within 14 days). Care should be taken to avoid drying the soil profile out between irrigations, as this will promote further grass weed germination.

**Note:** Pendimethalin is phytotoxic to extremely shallow sown rice that is not covered with soil. Ensure rice seeds are covered with soil prior to application of pendimethalin. If a replant situation is required and pendimethalin has been applied to the initial rice crop, the subsequent rice crop must be planted below the pendimethalin herbicide band to enable desirable establishment. **DO NOT** apply clomazone to Illabong rice.

### DRILL SOWN RICE



For more information on Director or Rifle, contact your local Nufarm Area Sales Manager.

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