AGTRYNE® MA HERBICIDE

TECHNOTE

THE CONTROL OF CAPEWEED AND ERODIUM IN CLOVER BASED PASTURES

Farmers know that capeweed, *arctotheca calendula*, and erodium spp are tough competitors with desirable clover and pasture grasses.

Agtryne MA offers a flexible and robust option for mature weeds and is less dependent on grazing pressure afterwards for control. It is also effective on erodium a hard to kill weed that has seed heads that can cause serious damage to livestock in spring.

Agtryne MA is increasingly useful in higher rainfall areas because it gives excellent cost effective control of not only important weeds such as capeweed, erodium species but also toadrush, Patersons curse and fumitory.

GETTING THE BEST OUT OF AGTRYNE MA

Timing

Spray in early to mid winter after most weed seeds have germinated.

Even though Agtryne MA is robust, several seasons of trials have shown the best weed control resulted from spraying young weeds while they are less competitive with the pasture.

Clover should have at least three trifoliate leaves.

Rates

- 1 L/ha for weeds up to 7 cm diameter and 1.5 L/ha for plants up to 20 cm diameter.
- Include one of the compatible insecticides if pest control is required.
- Do not add a wetting agent or spraying oil.
- Other pasture weeds labelled for control by the 1-1.5 L/ha rates of Agtryne MA are Patersons curse, crassula, and toad rush.

Spray volumes

Use spray volumes of 50 to 100 L/ha for ground application and 20 to 30 L/ha for aerial application.

(30 L/ha from the air is preferred for more reliable coverage).

Apply the higher volume if weeds are dense or pasture cover is thick.

UNDERSTANDING THE EFFECT OF AGTRYNE MA ON DESIRABLE SPECIES

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

Do not use Agtryne MA in situations where oversowing of new pasture species may occur.

1. Stress

Plants under stress such as waterlogging, lack of moisture, prolonged cloudy weather can be affected by Agtryne MA, because the metabolic processes in the pasture species are reduced and the plant is unable to detoxify the terbutryn component of Agtryne MA. Do not apply prior to or following a grass selective herbicide or simazine in the same season as damage to pasture may occur, for the same reasons.

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.

These are minimums, so it is best to exercise caution with desirable clovers and crops particularly when using higher rates.

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.

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FACTORS AFFECTING GRASS/ CEREAL/CLOVER SAFETY	ALWAYS TRY TO	ALWAYS AVOID
Plants under stress	Ensure good soil moisture	Other herbicide stresses
High temperature		Days over 18° C
Plant size and state	Spray crops/pasture at labelled rates	'Soft' crops (refer to point 3)
Frost		Spraying in frosty conditions
Oils and wetters	Never add oils and wetters	

Figure 1
Barley cultivar x herbicide screening
Terbutryn + MCPA (Agtryne MA)
Trial: Agricultural Institute, Wagga Wagga, 2001.

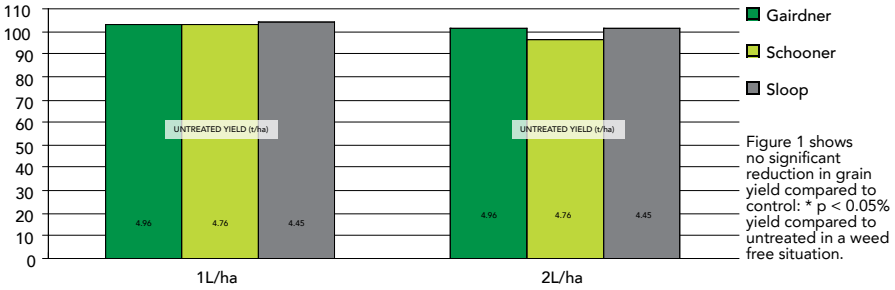

Figure 1 shows no significant reduction in grain yield compared to control: * $p < 0.05\%$ yield compared to untreated in a weed free situation.

Figure 2
Sub clover vigour
Trial in sub clover and grass pasture
Trial: Strathbogie, Vic, 1996.

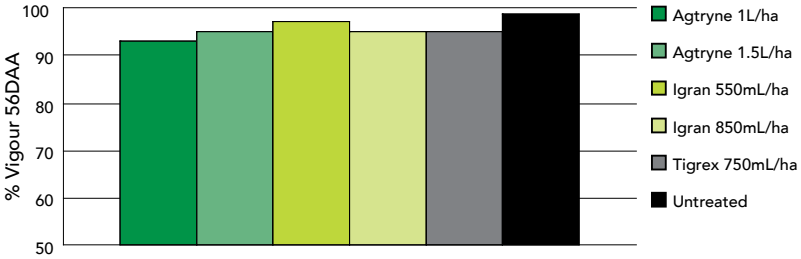

Figure 3
Capeweed control by Agtryne MA in sub clover and grass pasture
Trial: Strathbogie, Vic, 1997.

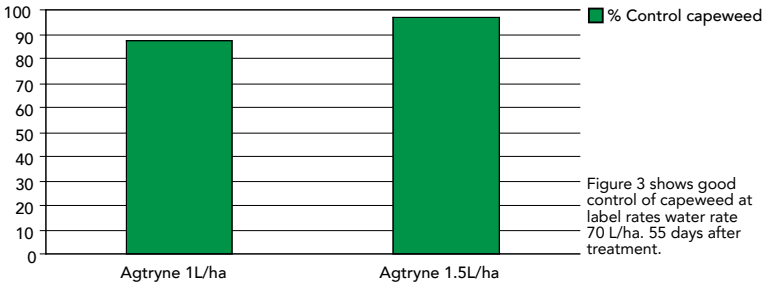

Figure 3 shows good control of capeweed at label rates water rate 70 L/ha. 55 days after treatment.

For more information on Agtryne MA, contact your local Nufarm Territory Manager.

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