

## STEWARDSHIP

Phenoxy herbicides, including MCPA, are key tools used to control Soft Rush. Their levels in drinking water should not exceed 0.1 parts per billion. These minute parts can be detected in water samples, so it is important to adopt effective Stewardship and observe Best Practice Guidelines below.



### Best Practice Guidelines

- Application must be made by a trained operator with current certification
- Keep boom spray at least five metres back from water courses
- Use low drift air inclusion nozzles
- Do not spray if rain is expected within the day
- Do not spray waterlogged fields where tyre marks are visible
- Do not clean or wash down sprayer near drains in the yard
- Do not exceed maximum application rate
- Consider use of weed wiper application method in water catchments

Details of application rates and timings are given on Nufarm labels and product literature both of which can be accessed from [www.nufarm.com/uk](http://www.nufarm.com/uk). Alternatively, call the Nufarm helpline on 01274 694714, Monday to Friday 09.00 - 17.00.



**Nufarm**

[www.nufarm.com/uk](http://www.nufarm.com/uk)

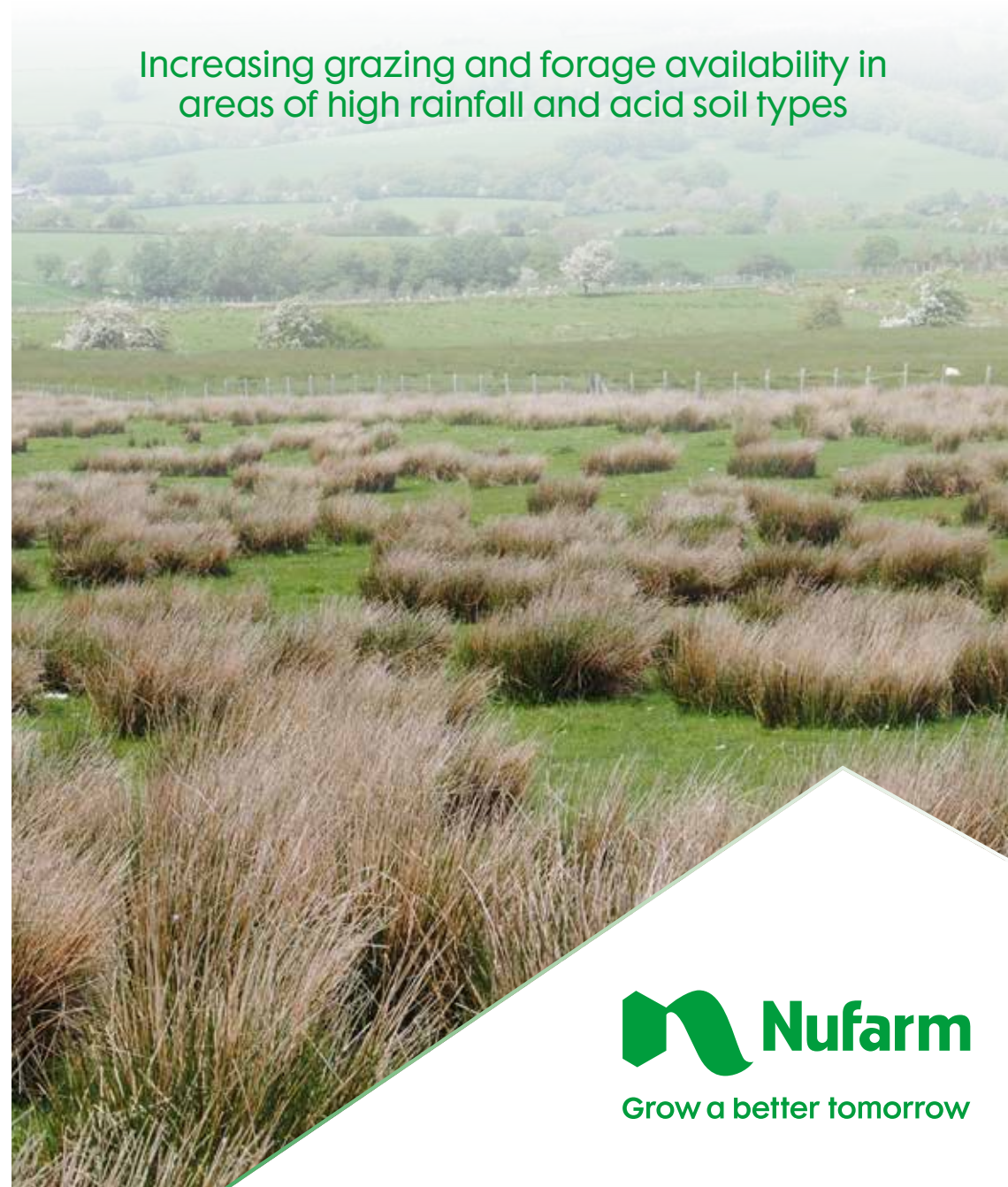
Nufarm UK Ltd Wyke Lane, Wyke, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD12 9EJ

Use plant protection products safely.  
Always read the label and product information before use.

PastureMaster contains MCPA and 2,4D and is a trademark of Nufarm  
Kyleo contains glyphosate and 2,4-D and is a trademark of Nufarm  
Agritox contains MCPA and is a trademark of Nufarm  
Rattler contains glyphosate and is a trademark of Nufarm  
Depitox contains 2,4-D and is a trademark of Nufarm

# SOFT RUSH CONTROL

Increasing grazing and forage availability in areas of high rainfall and acid soil types



**Nufarm**  
Grow a better tomorrow

## TRIAL RESULTS

Soft rush has been reduced from an average 81% to 20%, a 75% control rate, over a 12-month period by the Water Catchment Partnership operating in Northern Ireland. These results were achieved by weed wiping with glyphosate which showed to be the most effective rush control with minimal water pollution.

The working partnership designed to effectively tackle the problem of pesticides in the water environment, comprises representatives from Northern Ireland Water, Ulster Farmers Union (UFU), Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) and the Voluntary Initiative.

**1 x APPLICATION OF HERBICIDE =  
40% ⇒ 10% RUSH COVER: A 75% CONTROL RATE**

**leading to 0.85t grass DM extra/acre, which can be used to gain**

10.5 ROI for increased stocking rate for ewes and lambs	OR	7.6 ROI for increased stocking rate for suckler beef	OR	4.0 ROI for extra grass yielding 4 round bales/acre
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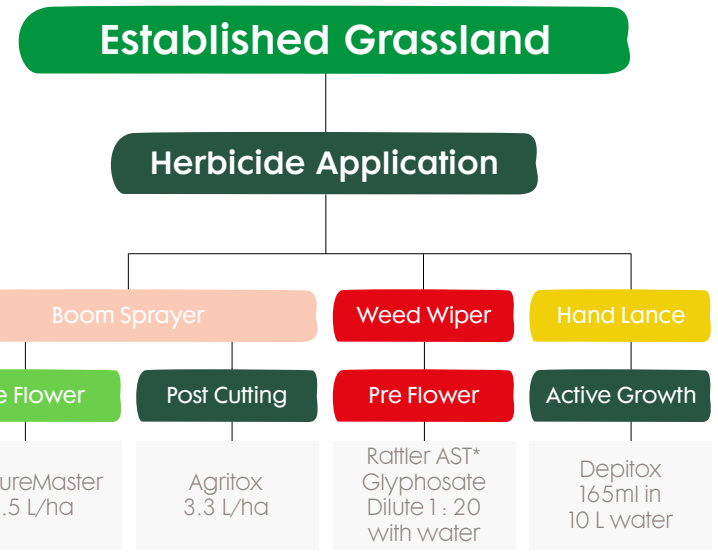
## FARMER CASE STUDY

"In the last two years we've weed wiped 80% of the farm with glyphosate. Soft Rush was a major issue and reduced grazing availability, whilst Creeping Thistle was causing foot problems. In the first year we achieved a 70% Soft Rush kill rate and 95% for Creeping Thistle. Since then, growth has been minimal and it's now possible to control by wiping small localized areas. Weed wiping has not only stopped the weeds from spreading on what is poorly drained land in an Environmental Stewardship scheme, but the grass has naturally regenerated and we have subsequently increased the grazing area by over 20%, lambs are finishing an average two weeks earlier and lamb scald has reduced by 50% along with foot rot amongst the ewes."

**Stephen Hazell, Cheltenham**  
2,300 ewes; 1,000 acres grassland



PHOTO CREDITS: Logic



\*Advanced Salt Technology 540g/l glyphosate – high concentration dual salts and Terwet surfactant

## HOW

You have the choice of making an overall application with a boom sprayer with selective herbicides or using glyphosate through a weed wiper - the preferred method in water catchment areas. Consider using a contra-rotating brush weed wiper. For small scale applications use a knapsack sprayer or hand lance and Depitox (2, 4-D). Products containing MCPA, including PastureMaster and Agritox, are not permitted through a knapsack.

## WHEN

**Boom spraying:** apply late spring, pre-flowering OR top and apply to regrowth, approximately four weeks later.

If land is within an agri-environment scheme, then check before topping. The practice may not be permitted due to nesting birds.

**Weed wiping:** ideally apply late spring up to flowering when rushes have exceeded grass height. Applications can continue until first frost. Pre-grazing with sheep provides good height differential between rushes and grass.

## RUSH CONTROL: GRAZING AND CUTTING MANAGEMENT

	GRAZING INTERVAL	CUTTING INTERVAL
PastureMaster or Agritox (boom sprayer)	Two weeks	Four weeks
Rattler AST glyphosate (weed wiper)	Five days	Five days

Remember, long term management of Soft Rust requires good field drainage and appropriate lime application to bring soil pH to 6.5.