When Should Herbicides be Applied in Established Grassland?

Generally, herbicides should be applied when weeds are healthy and actively growing so that the active ingredients are taken in and translocated around the weed.
Correct growth stage of weed is essential for best control, so application timing is all important (see below).

Weed Control in New Sown Leys

Difficult to control perennial weeds such as docks are relatively easy to control at the seedling stage, this makes new sown leys an ideal stage of the grass crop to focus on weed control.

- Reseeding cost is a significant investment per hectare in lime, cultivation, seed variety and fertiliser.
- Seedling weeds will out-compete the new grass if left untreated, making weed control essential to protect your investment.
- Key target weeds include seedling docks, thistles, small nettle, chickweed, fat hen, charlock, redshank and mouse ear.
- **PastureMaster 2.5 L/ha + Tomahawk (fluroxypyr) 0.75 L/ha** * is the core mix to control all of the key target weeds.
- Apply at optimum timing when weeds are at 2-4 leaf stage and actively growing.
- If clover is included in the sward, consider tribenuron based herbicide.

*N.B. Mix not safe to clover

Grassmanship™ Best Use Guidelines

- Always read the label before application
- Apply in 200 litres water per hectare
- In hard water areas add a water conditioner to the tank before adding the herbicide
- Apply April to end September
- Weeds must be actively growing at application
- Weeds must be at the correct growth stage such as leafy rosette
- Do not apply to grass under stress of drought or frost
- If RAGWORT is present, do not re-introduce livestock until the weed has died and completely disappeared (this may take upto 6 weeks)

Protect Your Water

BE WATER AWARE 5m

- Ensure only certified sprayer operators and equipment to apply the products.
- Do not fill or wash down sprayer in yard unless measures to collect washings for safe disposal in place.
- Do not use on waterlogged fields - if tyre marks are visible, the field is too wet.
- Observe all product buffer zones.
- Use Plant Protection Products safely.
- Clean and wash down your sprayer at the end of the day, well away from the water bodies or open drains.
- Do not use if rainfall is expected. Apply on a calm day when weather conditions are good.
- Do not exceed the maximum application rate.

What is Grassmanship™?

Grassmanship is a programme featuring a portfolio of products that optimise grass production to give farmers a clear cost benefit through increased grass Dry Matter yield/ha and increased grass quality.

10% Weeds = 10% LESS GRASS = Increased £ COST/ha

Return On Investment (ROI) for controlling 10% Docks/Thistles using extra grass to replace compound feed, is typically over 3:1

ROI for controlling weeds and using the extra grass energy to produce milk is typically over 6:1

Whilst weed control in arable crops is normal practice, in grassland it is less common. Survey data suggests that little more than 5% of UK grassland has a herbicide application in any given year, and few grassland farmers treat more than 10% of their pasture in any season.

Weed control is a key element of productive grassland farming and it is important that the herbicide applications are effective, made safely and with care for the environment.

5 Key Reasons to Control Broadleaf Weeds in Grassland

Maximise Grass Yield

As a general rule, 1% ground cover of grassland weeds, such as Thistles and Docks, will reduce grassland productivity by 1%. If weed infestation is 10% or higher then severe yield losses will occur year on year unless a weed control programme is implemented.

Make Better Quality Silage

Weed infestations affect silage quality, particularly Docks and Thistles.

Better Grassland Utilisation

Grazing animals tend to avoid patches of weeds, especially Thistles. As a result, ungrazed grass around weeds reduces pasture utilisation.

Healthier Stock

Weeds pose a threat to livestock health. Injurious weeds such as Ragwort can result in illness and even death, particularly in cattle. Thistles can act as 'hypodermic needles' spreading diseases such as Orf in grazing sheep and lambs.

Extend Pasture Life

Broadleaf weeds allow less productive grasses to invade, particularly after cutting. This results in the reduction of desirable grass species and earlier renewal of the pasture is required.

THRUST®

For control of Docks, Thistles, Ragwort and Buttercup in established grassland and amenity grass.

- Contains 2,4-D and dicamba
- Rate = 3.5 L/ha
- Apply April to end September
- Safe to grass
- 14 day grazing interval and cut after 3 weeks
- 5 litre pack treats 1.4 ha (3.5 acres)
- Can also be applied by knapsack (see label for details)
- The robust "Anchor Product" of the Nufarm range

NETTLEX™ 60

For spot treatment of Nettles, Docks, Thistles, Bramble, Broom and Gorse in established grassland and amenity grass.

- Contains triclopyr and clopyralid
- Rate = 60 ml in 10 litres water to treat 500 m^2
- Apply April to end October
- Good root kill
- Safe to grass
- Grazing interval only 7 days
- 1 litre pack (gives 16 x 10 litre knapsack fills)
- Handheld application only (includes lance from quad bike sprayer)
- A dedicated spot treatment product to control the toughest perennial and woody weeds

KYLEO

For complete destruction of old swards prior to re-seeding, including control of perennial weeds that straight glyphosate leaves behind.

- Contains 2,4-D + glyphosate + surfactant
- Rate = 5 L/ha
- Apply to healthy green leaf of perennial grasses with 10-15 cm of new growth
- Following cultivation, sowing interval for grass is 7 days and grass + clover is 14 days
- Allow 28 days interval if direct drilling grass or grass + clover mixes
- 15 litre pack treats 3 ha (7.4 acres)
- Kyleo is a unique formulation to give best destruction of old swards that may contain docks, thistles and nettles, and more!

AGRITOX®

For control of Thistles and Soft Rush in established grassland.

- Contains MCPA
- Rate = 2.7 L/ha
- Apply spring and summer to actively growing weeds
- Safe to grass
- 14 day grazing interval and cut after 3 weeks
- 10 litre pack treats 3.7 ha (9.1 acres)
- No manure restrictions
- A cost-effective treatment where thistles or soft rush are the main target weeds
- Follow water stewardship guidelines strictly. Do not spray soft rush or any weeds on waterlogged ground

PASTURE MASTER®

For control of annual weeds in new sown leys and perennial weeds in established grassland.

- Contains 2,4-D and MCPA
- Rate = 2.5 L/ha in new sown leys and 3.5 L/ha in established grassland
- Apply April to end August in new leys there is no application cut off in established grassland.
- Safe to grass
- 14 day grazing interval and cut after 3 weeks
- 10 litre pack treats 4 ha new leys (9.9 acres)
- No manure restrictions
- A great product for control of difficult weeds such as Fat Hen in new sown leys and ragwort and buttercup in established grass

PRAIRIE VERTE®

A foliar biostimulant for grassland and turf that boosts grass growth and Dry Matter per hectare.

- Contains extracts from 10 different plant species, providing a complex of amino acids, organic acids and phenols
- Rate = 0.5 L/ha
- Apply as a tank mix with grassland herbicides to help fill the gaps that dying weeds leave behind, saves a separate application
- Or - Apply alone 1 month before first cut or apply after each cut to boost DM/ha (over 10% increase in trials)
- 1 litre pack treats 2 ha (~5 acres)
- Also improves grass crop tolerance to abiotic stress such as drought or cold
- Prairie Verte is an exciting new product for the top grassland farmers who are looking to maximise yield from their grass.

DEPITOX® 500

- Excellent control of Creeping Buttercup and broad leaved weeds in established grassland, amenity grassland and managed amenity turf
- Contains 2,4-D
- Rate = 2.8 L/ha
- Apply Spring and Summer to actively growing weeds
- Safe to grass
- 14 day grazing interval and cut after 3 weeks
- 10 litre pack treats 3.6 ha (8.8 acres). Can also be applied by knapsack
- No manure restrictions
- A cost-effective treatment where creeping buttercup are the main target weeds, also controls many amenity weeds such as plantain, daisy and dandelion

Further Information

Use plant protection products safely.
Always read the label and product information before use.
For label and safety information, please refer to the Nufarm website:
www.nufarm.com/uk

Grassmanship™