

Weed Control in Pastures



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New pasture

- > Productivity and longevity of new pastures depends on “good start”
- > 1st step – ensure all existing vegetation in paddock killed before sowing
 - Clean-up spray with Glyphosate before crop ground re-grassed
 - Rate based on hardest to control weed
 - **WeedMaster TS540[®] -2.7 -4L/ha + Pulse Penetrant 100ml/100L**
 - Add herbicide spike if required
- > Important to control weeds early during pasture establishment
 - Improves pasture establishment and longevity of pasture
 - More productive pasture



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Weed control in new pasture

- > Number of options depends on timing/pasture species sown:
- > Grass/clover pasture mix sown
 - **Thistrol Plus[®]** or **Tribal Gold[™]** – prior to 1st full grazing
 - 70%+ ground cover
 - Clovers 1-2 trifoliate leaves
 - **Baton[®]** – after 1st full grazing – ‘salvage job’
 - Left too long – weeds too big
 - Dry autumn – staggered germination of grass and covers
 - All clovers big enough to spray – many weeds too large



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Weed control in new pasture



> Thistrol Plus at 3-4 L/ha

- Add Valdo (50-65g/ha) + Bonza 500ml/100L for certain weeds
 - Chickweed, buttercup, cleavers, storksbill, mallow, mayweeds, etc



> Tribal Gold at 4-5L/ha + Bonza 500ml/100L

- Essentially Thistrol Plus + Valdo in same container



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Weed control in new pasture



- > 'Salvage job'
- > Apply **Baton** at 1 - 1.5kg/ha after the first full grazing
 - It is important to well graze the paddock 3-7 days prior to spraying
 - Exposes weeds, reduces clover leaf area and minimises clover damage
- > Add **Valdo 50-65g/ha + Bonza 500ml/100L** for increased weed spectrum

Weed control in new pasture

> Grass/clover/chicory sown

– Flumetsulam products safe option

– **Valdo at 65g/ha + Bonza at 500ml per 100L water**

- White clovers 2 trifoliolate leaves, Chicory 2-4 true leaves

> Some weeds won't be controlled



Weed control in new pasture

- > Grass/clover/plantain sown
- > Bentazone products safe option
- > **Dictate at 3L/ha + Contact Xcel at 25ml/100L water**
 - White clovers 1-2 trifoliolate leaves, plantain 2-4 true leaves
 - High spray volumes required – minimum 300L/ha



Weed control in established pasture

- > Traditional winter weed spray with 2,4-D – much less relevant
 - Originally only 2,4-D ester products available – very damaging to clovers
 - Applied in winter when clovers least active – weeds also least active!
- > 2,4-D amine formulations – **Baton, Sprinter™ 700DS**
 - Much less damaging to clovers
 - Spray when weeds are small
 - Mid April – late May/early June – autumn germinating weeds
 - Early Sept – Dec – spring germinating weeds
 - Must be sprayed before seed heads start to form



Weed control in established pasture

- > Typically use – **Baton at 2kg/ha** **Sprinter at 2.3L/ha**
 - Higher rates for ragwort – Baton 2.5-3 kg/ha; Sprinter 2.7-3.4L/ha
 - Can add Valdo to increase weed spectrum controlled
- > Other products (different ai's) - available for specific weeds
 - Buttercups – **Valdo 65g/ha + Bonza 500ml/100L**
 - Buttercup and/or Docks – **Charter 20g/ha**
 - Docks – **Dockstar 3-4L/ha** (working with Dockstar for YBG control)
 - Docks + other weeds – **Dockstar 2L/ha + Baton 2kg/ha** (spring only)



Planning ahead for cropping/re-grassing

- > Now is the time to sort out which paddocks to crop next spring
 - Some weeds need 3 glyphosate sprays over ~1yr for good control
 - Programmed™ Approach

Kikuyu

Californian thistle

Couch (twitch)

Tussock

Red Fescues – *Festuca rubra*

Mercer grass

Ratstail

Paspalum

Browntop

Other prolific seedling grasses

Yorkshire fog

Sweet vernal

Brome grasses etc



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Programmed Approach

- > Spray old pasture out in Autumn
- > Sow annual ryegrass/winter cereal – graze/cut silage
- > Spray out in spring
- > Plant summer crop
 - Control weeds in the crop
- > Clean-up spray after crop
- > Sow new perennial pasture
 - Spray weeds in new pasture



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Programmed Approach - Benefits

- > Controls hard to kill perennial weeds
- > Reduces pest numbers
 - Stem weevil, Black beetle, clover pests - root weevil, root nematodes
- > Deals to seed bank in soil
- > \$\$\$\$\$\$



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