



Grassland and Maize Agronomy Update

August 2020



Welcome to the Corteva Agriscience™ Grassland and Maize Agronomy Update.

This will be the final update for the 2020 grassland season, the next edition will be in spring 2021.

These regular technical notes are a seasonal commentary to help those interested in improving grassland and forage productivity on dairy, beef, sheep and equestrian enterprises.

[Don't forget to claim your 2 CPD points](#) for subscribing to this newsletter. If you are not a subscriber and want to sign up then please go to: <https://www.corteva.co.uk/contact-us/sign-up.html> and complete your details.

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Envy in new sown leys

Investing in a grass reseed can be expensive so young leys need the best start to fulfil their yield potential. Weeds like chickweed and docks can easily out-compete young grass. Tackling grassland weeds early makes their control easier, improves sward palatability, productivity and also reduces costs in the long run, so take the chance to control them now.

Control seedling weeds in new swards with [Envy](#), which can be applied until the end of November.

[Envy](#) outperforms straight fluroxypyr in fluctuating autumn temperatures. However, where frosts are predicted ensure the application is made at least 14 days before cold weather sets in. If this is not feasible wait and apply the following spring. Apply Envy once the grass has three true leaves at 1.0 L/ha for the control of chickweed up to the flowering stage; where seedling docks or docks growing from root fragments are a problem apply Envy at 1.5 L/ha in 200 L of water.



Why control docks in the autumn?

Many farmers think that docks can only be sprayed with herbicide in the spring and that it is too late now, but autumn is a great time to clear grass fields of weeds.

- There is plenty of grass which means there is less pressure regarding stock withdrawal periods.
- Docks in silage/hay paddocks will now all be at a similar size and in a good leafy condition so ideal for herbicide uptake.
- Spring is a busy time so better to do the job now.

Docks which have gone to seed will need topping or cutting before spraying. Spraying dock regrowth with [Doxstar® Pro](#) or [Forefront® T](#) three to four weeks after the last silage cut and at least three weeks before the first frost is a good option.

Whilst [Forefront® T](#) is normally limited to use on fields grazed by cattle and sheep, it can also be applied after the last silage/hay cut is taken, but the forage and any resulting manure **MUST** stay on the farm. If silage or hay is produced from this field the following calendar year, **ALL** forage must stay on the farm, along with **ANY** manure.



Late season weed control and importance of topping

Autumn is a good time to control weeds in grassland as perennial weeds such as docks, thistles and buttercups are still actively growing but are now starting to send nutrients down to their roots ready for winter and so will take herbicide down with them.

The weeds need to be actively growing with fresh green growth. This is important so that the weeds take in as much herbicide as possible through their leaves, to translocate it down to the roots for a thorough kill. Most weeds in grazing fields will need cutting down now and the regrowth sprayed three to four weeks later. You can apply a grassland herbicide and expect optimal control up to three weeks before the first frost is forecast.

Grassland App

The Corteva grassland app is available on iPhone (iOS) and Android platforms as well as a web-based version.

The latest version of the app (3.6) requires iOS version 12.4.6 or Android version 9 or above to run. If the phone or tablet device cannot run the minimum operating systems required please use the web version of the app at <https://grassland.farming.co.uk/> to ensure you have access to the most recent version. The web version can be accessed on a device browser or on any PC/laptop – Google Chrome or New Microsoft Edge Chromium browsers are recommended.



Feedback on using our grassland products during 2020

Corteva is continually striving to improve its grassland weed control options.

Feedback is welcomed on how Corteva grassland products have performed on farms this season.

Please share successes (and failures) of Corteva products by sending an email to ukhotline@corteva.com

Forefront T Stewardship

A reminder that if recommendations are made for [Forefront® T](#), ALL stewardship records MUST be reported via the Corteva grassland app. Please ensure all records are kept up to date.

Advisor consults with farmer client and both agree to use Forefront T

Advisor opens App and selects Forefront T stewardship

Advisor logs farmer details or selects an existing farmer client

Advisor enters area to be sprayed and submits

The Advisor, their HQ (if set up) and farmer client receive email confirmation that stewardship needs have been conveyed to farmer client and understood.

Product can now be released for use

Database to record stewardship auto-updates

Forefront T stewardship training

The [Forefront® T](#) online training module is an easy-to-use online course for:

- BASIS Crop Protection Certificated Agronomists (Full or Grassland) who already advise on the use of this product
- BASIS Crop Protection Certificated Agronomists who are interested in advising on Forefront T use for the first time

The course offers an opportunity to learn/refresh knowledge, and to earn 2 BASIS Points at a convenient time. Anyone who completed the course and claimed BASIS Points in the 2019/20 points year can re-take the course and claim again for the 2020/21 points year. The course will take experienced [Forefront® T](#) Advisors up to 35 minutes to complete. Those wishing to become [Forefront® T](#) Advisors for the first time should allow an additional 10-15 minutes.

Anyone who has not received an invite can email david.gurney@corteva.com and ask to be added to the course.

Hay crops

[Forefront® T](#) is for use on grassland for cattle and sheep grazing. If hay or haylage has inadvertently been made from a field treated with Forefront T, the hay/haylage and any resulting manure **MUST** remain on the farm of origin. Please check / remind farmer clients to abide by this requirement.

Maize inoculants for dairy farmers and biogas producers

Maize is one of the most economical forages in terms of yield and energy value, if harvested at the right time. With the maize harvest approaching, the focus will shift from grass and wholecrop silage to maize for both forage and biogas purposes.

Silage inoculants help to lock in a crop's nutrients and drymatter, resulting in less energy and drymatter loss and greater animal performance when compared to an untreated control. There are a range of Pioneer® Brand inoculants that are suitable for the maize silage, depending on the intended end use of the forage.

For maize ensiled for gas production, [11CH4](#) works by unlocking nutrients and releasing energy, significantly increasing methane production and research has highlighted that use of 11CH4 increases methane yield by 8% whilst improving aerobic stability and reducing silage losses by 50%.

[11CFT](#) is suitable for maize ensiled to be fed-out to milk or beef cattle. [11CFT](#) contains a novel strain of *Lactobacillus buchneri* to reduce shrink losses and helps to improve the aerobic stability. It is formulated to lead to a rapid drop in pH, helping to retain starch and sugar, increasing fibre digestion and maximizing the feed value, and reducing need for bypass protein supplementation.

It is advised to wait 60 days post ensiling before feeding out CFT treated silage in order to attain optimum results. For very high dry matter silage, [11A44](#) is suitable.



Ask a question

Q **Envy**[®] or **Leystar**[®] for a new sown ley?

A Use **Leystar**[®] where you expect a wider range of broad leaved weeds to emerge – particularly thistles. Use **Envy** where docks are the main weed target and likely to emerge from root fragments as well as seed or where treatment is needed after 31st August.

Q When is the last date I can apply **Leystar**?

A Use **Leystar**[®] on new sown leys up to 31st August and on established grassland up to 30th September.

New packaging to start appearing in 2021

Corteva grassland herbicides will be moving to new packaging from 2021, with the grey bottles with green caps being replaced with translucent white Corteva embossed bottles and blue caps.

All Corteva Agriscience grassland herbicides will still be supplied in PET (polyethylene terephthalate) –based packaging. Our PET packaging is lightweight, strong, translucent to help gauge contents, and conical to facilitate effective triple rinsing. The caps are ergonomically designed for ease of opening, even when wearing protective gloves. In addition, there is no foil seal, which reduces the risk of spillage in the handling areas, is one less item to handle and decontaminate before disposal and speeds up filling. With cap and bottle being made of the same material, there is no need to hold separate stocks for disposal.



Earn BASIS Points.

2 BASIS points (1 crop protection and 1 personal development) will be awarded to those subscribing to Grassland and Maize Agronomy Update.

Please include course name 'Grassland Agronomy Update' and ref number: CP/84141/1920/g, on your training record and send to:

linda@basis-reg.co.uk

These details are valid until 31st May 2021.

BASIS

For regular updates on agronomic issues, find us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CortevaForage> and Facebook: facebook.com/cortevauk

For further information please contact the Corteva Agriscience technical hotline on 0800 689 8899 or UKHotline@corteva.com or go to www.corteva.co.uk/grassland or download the Corteva grassland app available on [apple](#), [android](#) or [web version](#).

Discover more at corteva.co.uk

USE PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS SAFELY. Always read the label and product information before use. For further information including warning phrases and symbols refer to label.

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