

Grassland and Maize Agronomy Update



CORTEVA
agriscience

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In this edition

- **Maize herbicides, Accent[®] and Pastor[®] Trio**
- **Topping regrowth**
- **Maximise your grass silage protein**
- **Broad spectrum weed control solutions**
- **Spraying reseed**
- **Post first cut dock control**
- **Forefront[®] T stewardship training reminder**
- **Ask a question**

Welcome to the Corteva Agriscience Grassland and Maize Agronomy Update.

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. You can claim two CPD points for subscribing to this email update.



Maize herbicides.

Maize crop protection solutions from Corteva include:

[Accent[®]](#)

[Dow Shield[®] 100](#)

[Pastor[®] Trio](#)

[Starane[®] Hi-Load HL](#)

Pastor Trio will give good control of mayweeds, thistles, cleavers and chickweed whilst also

offering control of some of the key polygonums. Don't forget that Pastor Trio can be used in a wide range of situations and is also approved for use in established grassland, new leys, cereals, and undersown cereals as well as maize. Accent, which is a high load nicosulfuron product, gives broad-spectrum weed control in forage maize, including control of grasses.

Topping regrowth.

Topping grassland with a mechanical topper can be used as a form of weed control. However, topping doesn't give long-term control down to the roots, so needs repeating throughout the season to be effective and increased fuel costs make this a less attractive option. Nevertheless, topping fields mid-season can give a uniform stand of weeds by re-energising perennial weeds to resume vegetative growth, thus enabling more effective control of the weed regrowth with a translocated herbicide. Allow weeds to regrow for approximately three weeks after topping and then spray the leafy regrowth.

Maximise your grass silage protein and minimise your supplementation costs.



Protein is an essential component to any diet, frequently the most expensive on a 'per cow and day' basis. Farmers are facing new challenges: rising costs for commodities which require reconsideration of forage inclusion rates.

By producing high quality grass silage containing high protein levels, farmers can lower costs of concentrates in the diet. How can this be done?

Ensure best harvest management:

- Cut the grass at the correct maturity, better slightly too young than too mature, this will increase the amount of protein supplied from the resulting silage.
- Ensilage within 24 hours of cutting and at a dry matter content ideally between 30 and 40%.

The use of Pioneer® Silage Inoculants will:

- Lead to a faster pH reduction resulting in less protein degradation.
- Lead to higher proportion of true protein being retained in the grass which can replace protein in concentrate rations.
- Increase the level of highly efficient lactic acid-producing bacteria and reduce the risk of a butyric acid fermentation, thereby avoiding associated unpalatability.
- Improve aerobic stability.

For further information see the Farm More Forage App or <https://www.corteva.ie/Pioneer/silage-inoculants.html>



Pioneer Grass Inoculant Recommendation 2022 – Protein saving is crucial.

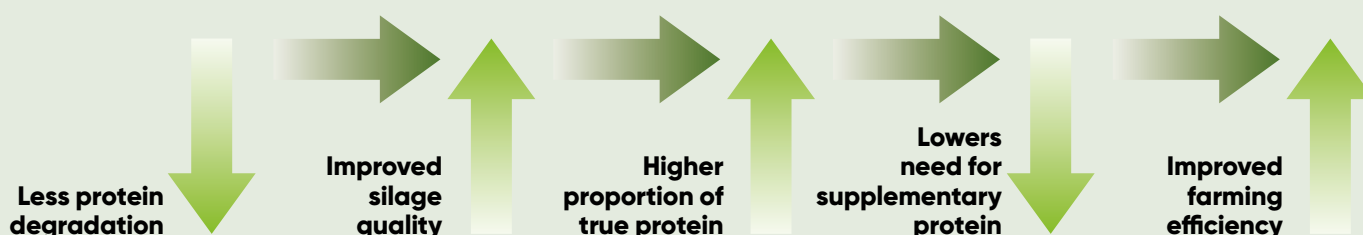
The use of highly specialised grass combination products is generally recommended as 'insurance'. Choose between the following two products for the best results:



Early-medium cut: 11G22 Rapid React® – improves fermentation which minimises protein degradation and reduces dry matter losses, also improves aerobic stability.



Advanced maturity – late cut: PIONEER® 11GFT – improves fermentation which minimises protein degradation and reduces dry matter losses. Improves aerobic stability and provides the additional benefit of improved fibre digestibility.



Broad spectrum weed control solutions.

Corteva's grassland herbicides are broad-spectrum, controlling more than one weed type.

As well as information on label weeds, where we have knowledge of how our products might affect non-label weeds, these details can be found in our weed control tables

<https://www.corteva.ie/crops/grassland/established-grassland.html>

For non-label weeds, information is based on anecdotal or limited data, and is only indicative and should not be considered as a recommendation for use on the part of Corteva. The user assumes full responsibility for use on these weeds.



After a dry start to the season, it's likely that many farmers will want to treat for docks after silage cutting.

Spraying 2-3 weeks after the first-cut when docks have re-grown is an excellent opportunity to get good levels of control. If spray contractors are used, make sure they are booked in to apply a spray 2-3 weeks after silage cut is taken, as by then dock regrowth should be at the ideal stage for control as the weeds will have fresh green leaves and all be at a similar growth stage (dinner plate sized). There will also not be much grass growth around the

weeds, so it is easier to hit the target plants when spraying. Translocated herbicides such as **Doxstar® Pro** need a minimum of three weeks to get right down into the roots to give thorough long-term control, so apply in plenty of time before second silage cut is made. Where docks are present, weed control is a small cost relative to the gain in extra grass and silage produced.

If cutting takes place earlier e.g. around 14 days, then short term control is unlikely to be affected but the likelihood of having to undertake a follow up spray the following year is increased.

Spraying Reseeds.

Reseeding grassland is a major investment, so it is important to look after the new ley whilst it is establishing, and early weed control is a key part of this. **Pastor Trio** and **Envy®** are essential herbicides for use in new sown leys. They both give broad-spectrum weed control and are very safe to grass. It is more economical and effective to treat weeds when they are small, rather than wait for them to establish and treat when they are larger.

Where there is a wide range of weeds growing including thistles and spring germinating polygonums, use **Pastor Trio** with its broad spectrum of activity. Where significant dock populations were present at the time of reseeding, and regeneration from dock root fragments is likely, treating with **Envy** is a good option, as this can be sprayed at the higher dose rate of 1.5litres/ha. Remember that application timing is crucial for good control, and ensure that weeds are actively growing and not suffering from stress after a prolonged dry spell.

Both **Envy** and **Pastor Trio** are very safe to grass but will kill clover. If having clover in the mixture is important, spray out the weeds first and stitch clover back into the ley after three months.

Forefront® T

HERBICIDE

Stewardship training reminder.

The **Forefront® T** online training module is an easy-to-use course for:

- **IASIS Pesticide Advisors and IASIS Professional Pesticide Distributors that already advise on the use of this product**
- **IASIS Pesticide Advisors and IASIS Professional Pesticide Distributors who are interested in advising on this product for the first time**

The course will take up to 75 minutes to complete (depending on experience). It doesn't have to be completed all at once.

9 IASIS CPE Credits are available for Pesticide Advisors and Professional Pesticide Distributors (credits can only be claimed once).

If you wish to take the **Forefront T** Stewardship Course, please contact your T P Whelehan Representative confirming the name that you wish to be registered for the course and the email address that you will use (one email address per person). They will make the necessary arrangements for you.

Ask a question.

- Q.** Does **Thistlex**[®] control all species of thistles?
- A.** Yes! Thistlex gives excellent control of all thistle species. The two most common and damaging thistle species in forage situations are creeping and spear thistle, but other species such as marsh thistle, musk thistle, carline thistle, and woolly thistle are also controlled.
- Q.** Does topping control thistles and docks?
- A.** Topping can give in-season control, but does not control down to the roots, so regrowth occurs. Repeated topping of docks can change the plant morphology, leading to splitting of the dock crown, resulting in more dock plants. Repeat cutting of Creeping thistle can lead to an increase in numbers due to the 'apical dominance effect', which will potentially cause a significant number of new shoots to grow following topping. Beware that spraying in drought conditions can also create the same effect, due to the significant reduction in translocation rates.

Neither are good practice in respect of managing sustainability issues.



IASIS Points.

10 IASIS points will be awarded to those subscribing to the Grassland Agronomy and Maize Agronomy Update newsletter.



We're here to help you.

For technical advice and support, contact the technical hotline or Liz Glynn, your Corteva National Technical Manager on: 00353 (86) 844 5306



Liz Glynn

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 or visit: www.corteva.ie/forage or download the Farm More Forage app available on apple or android. For regular updates on agronomic issues, find us on **Facebook** and **Twitter** or search for **@CortevaUK** on social media. Orders: custserv@corteva.com
 General enquiries: 01462 457272 Email: CortevaUK@corteva.com You can also visit: <https://www.corteva.ie/contact-us.html> for additional contact numbers.



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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© 2022 Corteva. Accent[®] contains nicosulfuron
 Dow Shield[®] 100 contains clopyralid, Doxstar[®] Pro contains fluroxypyr and triclopyr, Envy[®] contains fluroxypyr and florasulam, Forefront[®] T contains aminopyralid and triclopyr, Pastor[®] Trio contains fluroxypyr, clopyralid and florasulam, Starane[®] Hi-load HL contains fluroxypyr, Thistlex[®] contains clopyralid and triclopyr.