

Grassland and Maize Agronomy Update



CORTEVA
agriscience

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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[®] 400](#)

[Leystar[®]](#)

[Starane[®] Hi-Load HL](#)

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

offering control of some of the key polygonums. Don't forget that Leystar 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.co.uk/Pioneer/silage-inoculants.html>



Pioneer Grass Inoculant Recommendation 2022 – Protein saving is crucial.

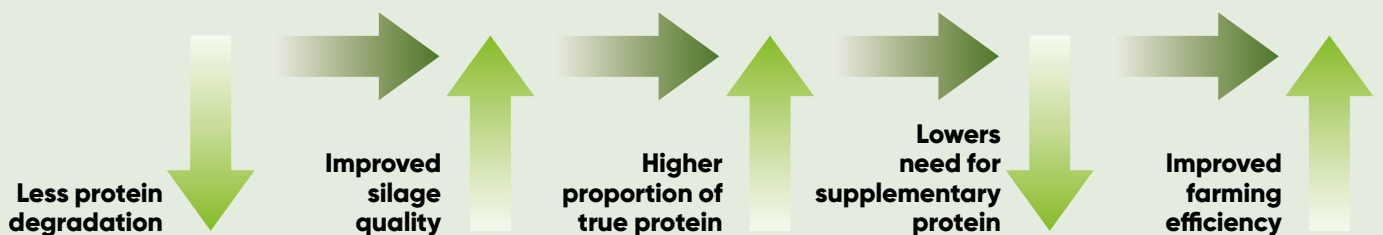
The use of highly specialised grass combination products is generally recommended as 'insurance'. Choose between the following two products for the best results:



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.co.uk/forage/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.

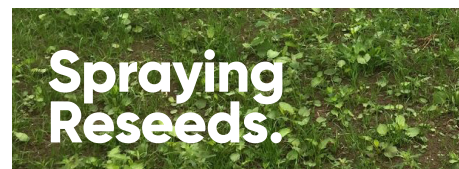


After a dry start to the season, it's likely that many farmers will want to treat for docks after silage cutting.

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.



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. **Leystar®** 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 **Leystar** 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 **Leystar** 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.

Shows and Events.

The forage team from Corteva Agriscience are delighted to be back out and about at shows and events this year, talking to farmers and agronomists and answering questions on maize hybrids, silage inoculants and how to tackle weed problems in their fields. Catch-up with the team next at:

• **NSA Sheep Event – 27th July 2022**

nationalsheep.org.uk/events/forthcoming-events/21751/nsa-sheep-2022/



Wednesday 27th July 2022



There is a growing role for manure to part replace peat in some manufactured composts, and more home-grown vegetable production drawing on local livestock/equestrian businesses for manure. The use of mulches and not digging in manures is practiced by a growing number of gardeners which can lead to longer break-down times of plant material and any clopyralid residues if present.

As a result of this, all clopyralid containing products should not be used on grass which will be cut for animal feed (i.e. fresh cut grass, silage, hay and haylage), fodder or bedding nor for composting or mulching within one year of treatment, and should not be used on grassland

grazed by horses and ponies. This will significantly reduce the likelihood of clopyralid residues in manure from having a consequence where its use may end up on sensitive crops.

Labels for clopyralid containing products used on grassland will be updated to reflect these changes in use. Labels will change from 1st January 2023, to prevent issues occurring in the chain from hay to manure to gardens, to ensure gardeners don't have issues with herbicide residues affecting sensitive vegetable crops.

More details can be found in a dedicated topic sheet in our Farm More Forage app or go to: <https://www.corteva.co.uk/tools-and-advice/stewardship/clopyralid-labels-grassland.html>



Forefront[®] T

HERBICIDE

Stewardship training reminder.

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 2021/22 points year can re-take the course and claim again for the 2022/23 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.

If you wish to take our Forefront T Stewardship Course for Advisors, please contact ukhotline@corteva.com

BASiS points opportunity.

There are a number of opportunities to gain BASIS CPD points from Corteva's forage portfolio, including downloading and using the Farm More Forage App for Advisors, reading the Corteva Grassland and Maize Agronomy Guide, and completing or taking a refresher of the Forefront T Stewardship Course for Advisors online training.

You can also earn 2 BASIS points (1 crop protection and 1 personal development) by subscribing to this publication - Grassland and Maize Agronomy Update.

Details for BASIS points for Corteva publications and training can now be found at
<https://www.corteva.co.uk/cpd.html>

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.

BASIS Points.

2 BASIS points (1 crop protection and 1 personal development) will be awarded to those subscribing to Grassland Agronomy and Maize Agronomy Update. Please include course name 'Grassland Agronomy Update' and ref number: CP/119500/2223/g, on the training record and send to cpd@basis-reg.co.uk These details are valid until 31 May 2023.



We're here to help you Corteva's Technical Services Team

For technical advice and support, contact the technical hotline or your local Corteva Area Manager.



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Technical hotline: **0800 689 8899** Email: ukhotline@corteva.com
 or visit: www.corteva.co.uk/grassland 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 [our website](#) 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[®] 400 contains clopyralid, Doxstar[®] Pro contains fluroxypyr and triclopyr, Envy[®] contains fluroxypyr and florasulam, Forefront[®] T contains aminopyralid and triclopyr, Leystar[®] contains fluroxypyr, clopyralid and florasulam, Starane[®] Hi-load HL contains fluroxypyr, Thistlex[®] contains clopyralid and triclopyr.