

Grassland and Maize Agronomy Update



MARCH 2022



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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.

Overwintered chickweed.

The relatively mild winter means that chickweed has successfully overwintered, and some grass fields have become dominated by chickweed.

It is important to control chickweed now as its fast growth means it can smother grass, resulting in reduced grass cover and bare patches when the chickweed dies off. This leaves open soil for other weeds to then colonise. Chickweed in grazing grass carries the risk of livestock poisoning due to its high nitrogen content, whilst its presence in silage cuts can lead to high moisture content, making silage difficult to wilt and resulting in poor fermentation.

In established grassland, treat with **Envy**[®] at 2 L/ha. If treating chickweed in a new sown ley, then use Envy at the lower rate of 1.5 L/ha.

The combination of fluroxypyr and florasulam allows Envy to work well at low temperatures and where there are large fluctuations between day and night-time temperatures in the early part of the year, so this makes treatment more effective than straight fluroxypyr.

Envy controls both common and mouse-ear chickweed, is very safe to

grass, and has a stock exclusion period of just seven days. It will kill clover, so, where there is a heavy population of chickweed, spray and re-introduce the clover three months later.

Envy[®]
HERBICIDE





The ideal time to spray docks with an effective translocated product, such as [Doxstar® Pro](#), is when the plants are young and actively growing with fresh leaves which are not diseased. The docks should be 20cm high or across.

Spraying three weeks before cutting for silage allows the chemical to reach down to the roots to kill the plant and for the leaves to decay. Spraying early in the season also means that the docks are all at the same stage of growth, making it

easier to treat them all.

Apply Doxstar Pro at 2 L/ha in at least 300 litres of water, or up to 400 litres of water if dock numbers are high or the grass sward is particularly dense. If low drift nozzles are being used, water volumes can be dropped to 200 L/ha.

Doxstar® PRO

HERBICIDE

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 2020/21 points year can re-take the course and claim again for the 2021/22 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

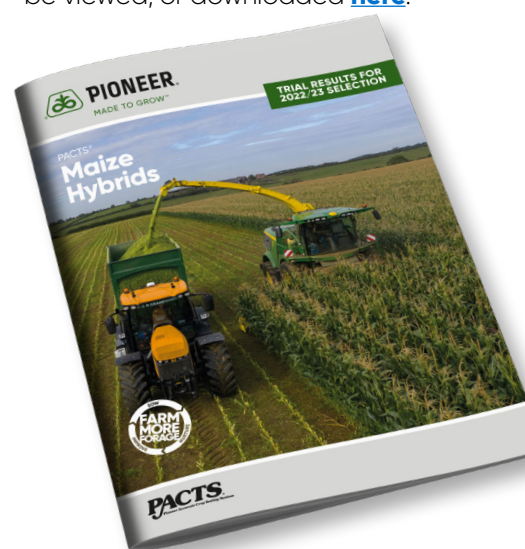
Forefront® T

HERBICIDE

Maize varieties selection.

One of the first tasks in growing a maize crop that meets all requirements is to select a hybrid with the most appropriate genetic potential and agronomic characteristics. As advisors and farmers decide upon maize cropping in the run up to planting, Corteva provides different resources to assist in making successful choices.

The 2022 Maize PACTS Book, which includes 2021 trial results and full hybrid descriptions, can be viewed, or downloaded [here](#).



Another useful resource is the maize hybrid tool on the Farm More Forage App (for advisors).

The app gives a clear summary of each Pioneer maize hybrid available and its principal characteristics.





Updated Grazon Pro product label.

The **Grazon[®] Pro** label has been updated to include the requirement **'DO NOT apply Grazon Pro onto or around manure or other compost heaps'**

This is part of our continued stewardship effort to minimise the risk of herbicide residues ending up in manures and composts which might then be used where sensitive plants are grown.

The new **Grazon Pro label** has the MAPP number 19875. Electronic copies of the new label can be found on the Farm More Forage app, and the Corteva website.

Grazon[®] PRO

HERBICIDE

Grassland clopyralid labels.

Be aware that labels for ALL authorisations of products containing clopyralid with a label use on grassland will soon have additional restrictions.

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

As a result of this, we are advising that products containing clopyralid (**Thistlex[®]**, **Pas[®]•Tor[®] Agronomy Pack** or **Leystar[®]**) 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.

We will introduce the updated labels in 2023. For now beware of this looming label change. Please do reconsider the use of these products this year if grass is subsequently intended to make hay AND leave the farm of origin as this frequently goes to feed horses and resulting manure can end up in gardens or allotments.

Thistlex[®]

HERBICIDE

Pas[®]•Tor[®]

Agronomy Pack

HERBICIDE

Leystar[®]

HERBICIDE

More details can be found in a dedicated topic sheet in our Farm More Forage app or scan the QR code to discover more.



Events.

We will be at **Dairy Tech** on 7th April - If you have questions or queries relating to any of our products or would like to speak to one of us face to face, please visit us on **stand i27**.





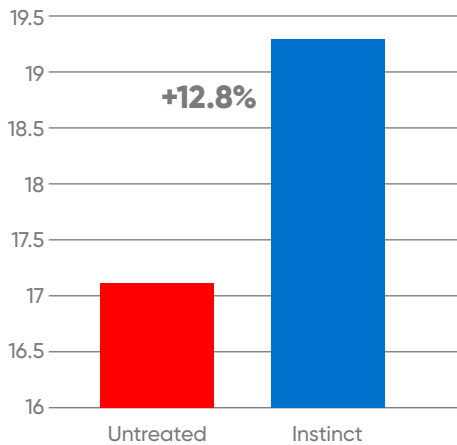
Weed emergence in grassland.

Month	Period	Chickweed	Dandelions	Buttercups	Docks	Thistles	Nettles	Ragwort	New sown leys
March	Early								
	Mid								
	Late	■							
April	Early	■							
	Mid	■		■					
	Late	■		■	■		■		■
May	Early	■		■	■		■		■
	Mid		■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Late		■	■	■	■	■	■	■
June	Early								
	Mid			■	■				
	Late			■	■	■	■	■	
July	Early					■		■	
	Mid					■		■	
	Late					■		■	
August	Early								
	Mid				■		■		■
	Late		■	■	■		■		■
September	Early		■	■	■		■	■	■
	Mid	■	■	■	■		■	■	■
	Late	■	■	■	■		■	■	■
October	Early				■		■		■
	Mid								
	Late								

Nitrogen stabilisers.

Many growers and agronomists are faced with difficult choices regarding nitrogen rates this spring. The general advice is to apply rates that are tailored to individual circumstances, taking into consideration nitrogen reserves in the soil, the economic return on investment, and yield potential. In most cases, this leads to a reduced rate of nitrogen compared with previously applied rates.

Yield of silage maize in dry matter t/ha. n=43



In previous years, the amount of nitrogen applied would buffer for nitrogen lost to the environment as nitrate in water, and greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. In some situations, these losses can be quite significant – 30- 40% is often quoted. With the trend being for reduced rates of nitrogen fertiliser this spring, the buffer is not there – meaning it is possible that crops will not reach their yield potential if nitrogen is lost from the soil. It is possible to reduce the loss of nitrogen into the environment with a nitrogen stabiliser.

Instinct™, based on Optinyte technology from Corteva Agriscience, has a long history and is used in many countries to protect nitrogen from environmental loss. By slowing down the conversion of ammonium into nitrate, environmental losses are minimised and more nitrogen is available to the growing crop for a longer period of time.

Maize is a crop that requires more nitrogen later in its life than many crops, and benefits from having not

just more nitrogen in the soil, but for longer. Yield responses of more than 10% are common, especially when grown with sub-optimal nitrogen rates, on lighter soils, in areas of high rainfall.

Instinct is ideally suited to maize as:

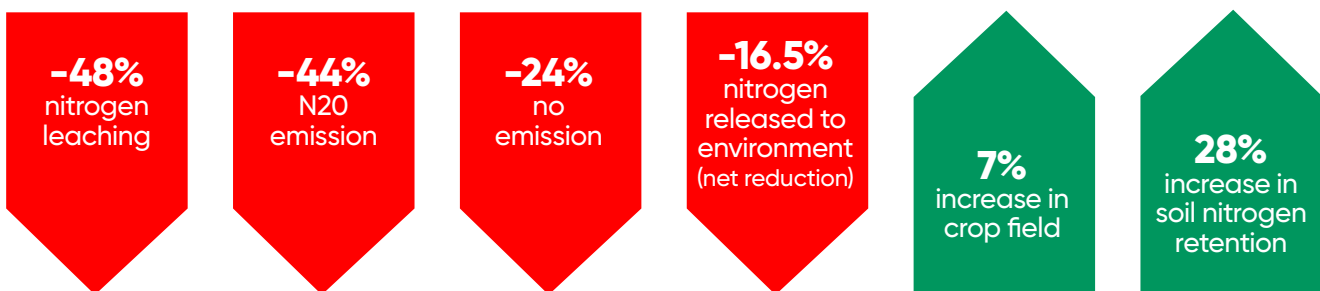
- it is easy to apply – it can be applied through a crop sprayer and is compatible with many crop protection inputs.
- it can be applied with liquid fertilisers, and slurry.
- it does need to get into the soil to work. This means Instinct can be applied to a seedbed prior to drilling and worked in mechanically or washed in with rain – 12mm within 10 days of application is sufficient.

Instinct™

Optinyte™ technology

NITROGEN STABILIZER

Benefits of Optinyte™ technology



Environmental benefits

- Stabilised nitrogen reduces leaching or loss from denitrification
- Less nitrate loss into waterways
- Reduces emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) into the atmosphere

Crop benefits

- Nitrogen remains available in the root zone longer for crop uptake
- Increased yield in maize, cereals, and many other crops
- Improves crop quality and plant health



Protect the environment

Reduce nitrate and GHG losses



Greater productivity

Maximise yield



Improved efficiency

Keep nitrogen in the root zone

Technical support.



For advice on all things forage, use the FAQ section on the Farm More Forage app, visit the [Forage Crops](#) area of the Corteva website, contact your local [Corteva Forage Specialist](#), or call or email the UK technical hotline **0800 6898899** ukhotline@corteva.com.

Ask a question.

- Q.** What is likely to be the first perennial weed to emerge in established grassland?
- A.** Dandelions (see weed emergence table)
Use Envy 2L/Ha to control.
- Q.** How will I know that docks have reached active growth?
- A.** Actively growing docks will have fresh leaves which are not diseased or showing signs of cold stress.

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/11459/2122/g, on the training record and send to cpd@basis-reg.co.uk. These details are valid until 31 May 2022.



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.



Georgina Clayton



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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. Doxstar® Pro contains fluroxypyr and triclopyr.
Envy® contains fluroxypyr and florasulam, Forefront® T contains aminopyralid and triclopyr, Grazon® Pro contains clopyralid and triclopyr, Leystar® contains fluroxypyr, clopyralid and florasulam, Pas® Tor® Agronomy Pack contains clopyralid, fluroxypyr and triclopyr, Thistlex® contains clopyralid and triclopyr.