

# forage bites

Helping you farm more forage



ISSUE THREE



May's rain certainly made up for the cold, dry conditions seen during April. And now we've enjoyed some sunshine too, grass has been growing fast. So, having thought there'd be a forage shortage, concerns about the quantity of grass available have turned attention to its quality. With no let-up in feed prices, the need for high-quality forage produced on farm remains.

And help is at hand. This issue of Forage Bites brings you details of the new Corteva Forage app, available to download for free. Also, read about all you need to know as the season progresses from dealing with larger weeds to thinking about silage quality from the next cut and preparing for autumn reseeding.

## New forage app

The newly launched Corteva Agriscience forage app puts a wealth of resources and features at your fingertips, providing 24hr access to the latest products, support and information to maximise homegrown forage.

The app is free to download and packed with advice and decision-making tools to identify the right seed and crop protection solutions for growing the best forage for your livestock.

Features available in the forage app include:

- Tool to define the best time to take action, such as spraying docks
- Decision tree to decide on the benefit of a silage inoculant or a weed control solution
- Product directory on what to use for a specific weed problem

- Guide on maize varieties best suited to a particular need
- Access to newsletters featuring seasonal advice, new product development and expert opinion
- Product information including label details

The forage app is a central part of FarmMoreForage, providing a framework for improving the quality and quantity of homegrown forage based around three phases of production - Sow, Nurture, Improve.

For more information and links to download the FREE app, visit: [corteva.co.uk/forage](http://corteva.co.uk/forage) or simply scan the QR code on page 5.

*"This new app is impressive. You must embrace the technology; it's no good standing still or you'll be left behind. We will definitely use it - and it's free!"*

**Spencer Mogridge**



Sow

## Safeguard your autumn reseed

**Late summer/early autumn is a popular time for reseeding as yield loss is minimised and new seedbeds have plenty of time to establish over winter.**

However, weed competition can be significant so to give young grass the chance to establish and flourish, it's imperative you check new leys regularly for signs of weed infestation and act quickly to control them.

Problem weeds such as chickweed and

seedling docks pose a threat to grassland productivity, even in small numbers. Aim to tackle these weeds early before they damage the performance of a new ley and become a more significant problem.

Controlling weeds is easier and cheaper when they are small, and the roots haven't propagated or had the opportunity to grow bigger and deeper. Weeds are best controlled in new leys when the grass is at the two-to-three leaf stage.

**Envy®** is the ideal product for use in new sown leys and its wide weed spectrum includes chickweed, mayweeds, buttercups, dandelions and seedling docks. Envy is available in a 3-litre pack and can be applied any time between 1st February and 30th November at 1-1.5 litres/ha, making it ideal for autumn reseeds.



Nature

## Planning a spray using the forage app

**Taking the time to plan a spray in your grassland is key to its success. A well-timed spray, using the right product can significantly reduce weed burden and encourage grass growth, as well as minimise the risk of a costly repeat spraying. Corteva's new forage app provides a decision support tool which helps you plan and execute an effective spray in your grassland.**

Follow these important steps when planning a spray:

1. Identify the main weeds using the app's Weed Wizard. Its database of

74 common weeds can help you easily identify the weeds in your grassland

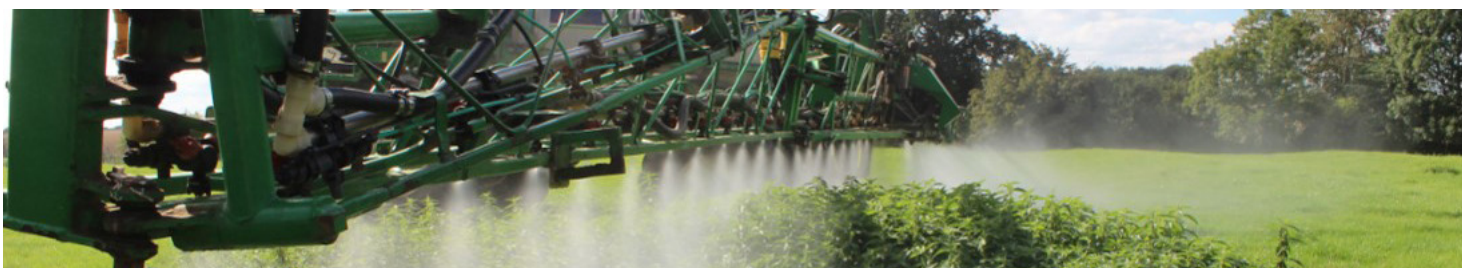
2. Determine the weed population density. At 5% or less, spot-on control can be effective but above 5% the most effective method of control is a spray boom

3. Select the most effective product using the app's Grassland Herbicide decision tree. It'll help you decide on the most effective weed control solution for your specific weed infestation

4. Time your weed control carefully. The app's timing tool tells you the best time to spray to achieve effective control

5. Know who will carry out the spray. Make sure whoever carries out the application has the correct training. All boom sprayers should be PA1 and PA2 certified.

Many farmers use a contractor to carry out their grassland spray applications. A good contractor can help source the most effective products and tools, as well as assist with any waste disposal and provide the correct documentation for record keeping and cross compliance. All contractors need to be on the NR0SO register.



# Achieve broad-spectrum control with a handheld sprayer and Grazon® Pro

**As even a small population of weeds can affect grassland productivity, it's worth controlling them. For weed populations below 5%, spot-on weed control using a knapsack or handheld sprayer can be a simple, cost-effective option.**

[Grazon Pro](#) is one of the few grassland herbicides approved for use in handheld sprayers. It is a fast-acting, broad-spectrum product which can be used to control perennial and woody weeds, as well as invasive weeds such as Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed.

To control perennial weeds such as docks and thistles, use Grazon Pro before they produce flowering bodies. If they have already flowered, weeds should be cut down to the ground before spraying the regrowth 2-3 weeks later.

For woody weeds such as brambles, gorse and broom, it is best to spray from June to August. There is no need to cut weeds beforehand. Instead, they should be sprayed thoroughly, ensuring all foliage is wet while avoiding the risk of run-off.

Grazon Pro is a professional use only

product so users must be certified and wear full PPE including gloves, overalls and rubber boots. The rate of application is 60ml in 10L of water, and livestock need to be excluded from treated grazing for at least seven days following application.



## Alternative options for thistle control

**When looking to control thistles, Thistlex might be your usual choice, but did you know Lontrel 600 can also be used to control thistles?**

When used on grassland at an application rate of 0.33L/ha, Lontrel™ 600 delivers equivalent levels of the active ingredient, clopyralid, to [Thistlex](#)®. This means Lontrel 600 can be used to control all species of thistle in grassland.

However, if you are controlling nettles as well as thistles, [Forefront](#)® T or spot-on control with [Grazon Pro](#) should be used in place of Lontrel 600.



## How to control larger weeds

**Timing is key when it comes to successful weed control in grasslands. As the season progresses and weeds become larger, achieving a good level of control is harder.**

Weeds need to be targeted when they are at the right growth stage and actively growing, otherwise the effectiveness of the herbicide may be limited. If weeds are sprayed when they are too large this can result in top kill only, as less of the chemical reaches the roots meaning the weed can continue to grow.

To achieve better control in larger weeds, top the weeds first and wait 2-3 weeks before spraying the regrowth. This helps achieve much better levels of root kill and overall weed control.

To understand more about when to spray different grassland weeds, use our forage app's timing tool. This explains when weeds are the correct size to achieve the best levels of control.



## Whatever the weather, improve your forage with silage inoculants

**We know the weather can change very quickly in the UK. But whether it's wet or dry, a good silage inoculant gives a faster, more efficient fermentation. This results in less energy and dry matter losses and silage with a greater feed value to drive intakes.**

As the summer progresses the ensiling of forage with higher dry matter needs

careful management. Grass with dry matter content above 30% is more prone to aerobic instability. Wholecrop cereal silages are at risk of heating due to the difficulty of air exclusion and situations where the dry matter content can 'spike' in dry conditions.

The Pioneer range includes products that can easily meet the needs of these

different scenarios. Pioneer Brand [11G22](#) Rapid React improves both the acid fermentation and aerobic stability. Pioneer Brand [11A44](#) is the product to turn to when the threat of aerobic instability is greatest. And [11GFT](#) is able to offer three benefits, improved fermentation, aerobic stability and fibre digestibility.



## Meet the Forage Team

**Our local area managers and forage specialists based throughout the UK are here to help with technical and product enquiries.**

Newest to the team is Beckie Cartwright. Based in Yorkshire, she strengthens the team's geographical reach in northern England and Scotland, as well as its expertise having a different background from her colleagues.

Beckie is our first forage specialist with qualifications and experience in animal nutrition. Her MSc in animal nutrition from the University of Nottingham, and subsequent role as a ruminant sales specialist, illustrates Corteva's

commitment to broadening its skill set to complement its agronomists.

Our specialty in forage is underlined by our product range, all of which concentrate ultimately on animal productivity. Around 90% of maize seed is sown in the UK to produce animal feed, our silage inoculants are aimed entirely at improving silage and ruminant nutrition, along with weed-free grass silage through appropriate crop protection products. Beckie's deep nutrition knowledge gives us a greater understanding of how our products impact forage production and subsequent farm profitability.



## Ask a question

**Q** When is the best time to control weeds in new-sown leys?

**A** Weeds are best controlled in new leys when the grass is at the two-to-three leaf stage. Many grassland herbicide products dictate grass should be over a year old at the time of treatment, but **Envy** can be applied from as early as the three-leaf growth stage.

**Q** How do I choose the right silage inoculant?

**A** Choose an inoculant based on the crop being ensiled, the target dry matter content and any anticipated challenges, such as the weather. For help choosing the right silage inoculant, download the Corteva Forage app or visit [www.corteva.co.uk](http://www.corteva.co.uk)

**Q** What weeds can be controlled with **Grazon Pro**?

**A** Grazon Pro is a broad-spectrum product which can be used in a handheld sprayer. It achieves broad-spectrum control of perennial weeds (docks and thistles), woody weeds (brambles, gorse and broom) and invasive weeds (Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed).

**Q** Is there an alternative way to control thistles in grassland?

**A** As well as **Thistlex**, Lontrel 600 can be used to control all species of thistle in grassland at an application rate of 0.33L/ha. However, Forefront T or Grazon Pro should be used in preference to Lontrel 600 where nettles are a problem alongside thistles.

## Technical Hotline

For queries on weed control in grassland, maize and forage crops, use of silage inoculants, selecting a maize hybrid to match your situation, please contact our technical hotline.

**0800 689 8899**

[ukhotline@corteva.com](mailto:ukhotline@corteva.com)

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## Forage App

To download the forage app use the QR code below  
or visit: [www.corteva.co.uk/forage](http://www.corteva.co.uk/forage)



Discover more at [corteva.co.uk](http://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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<sup>®</sup>, <sup>™</sup> Trademarks Corteva Agriscience and its affiliated companies. All other brand names are trademarks of other manufacturers for which proprietary rights may exist. Forefront<sup>®</sup>T contains aminopyralid and triclopyr. Envy<sup>®</sup> contains fluroxypyr and florasulam.

Doxstar<sup>®</sup> Pro contains triclopyr and fluroxypyr. Leystar<sup>®</sup> contains fluroxypyr, clopyralid and florasulam.