Ireland Agronomy Update

April 2017

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IASIS credits applied for, please sign up for newsletter as proof of requested technical updates.
Time to spray docks before first cut silage

A mild winter and warm spring days means that docks are well established and growing well. Plan dock sprays now – particularly on fields destined for silage.

Last year April was very wet so many dock problems in silage fields were not sprayed. Given this and the mild winter docks are going to be a problem.

Use full label rates to secure the lasting levels of control sought by farmers and lessen the need for follow up sprays.

Ideal size is about 20 cm cross - dinner-plate sized.

Doxstar Pro translocates exceptionally well meaning it gets right down into the roots. It takes three to four weeks to do this and have a lasting effect.

Applications made in early to mid-April will get rid of the weeds well ahead of first cut, giving the grass a chance to re-colonize the space left by the dead weeds.

Water volumes can be dropped to 200 L/ha if using air inclusion nozzles.

DoxstarPro is very safe to grass – still the top concern for grassland farmers who spray herbicides.

Stock withdrawal period is just 7 days.

DoxstarPro will kill clover so if present and the decision is made to remove the docks then plan to reintroduce clover six weeks later.

Which dock product?

DoxstarPro: If docks are the only problem along with dandelions or chickweed

Forefront T: if the dock population is very high and they have been well established for many years or if other weeds notably thistles, buttercups, nettles or dandelions are also present. Use on grazing fields. Use on hay and silage fields after the last cut has been taken.

Spray buttercups with Envy

Buttercups are now ready for treatment. Best results are achieved if sprayed before flowering. Envy, a new product for grassland kills them and will also control dandelions.

Envy contains florasulam and fluroxypyr. Together they deliver excellent control of weeds found in pastures which typically get over grazed, receive minimal nitrogen or have poorly competing grass species present.

- Envy controls buttercups, plantains, daisies, common chickweed, mouse eared chickweed, charlock
- Envy has no manure management restrictions so is ideal for use in horse/pony paddocks where manure is often picked and used elsewhere. It will kill clover, which is often an advantage in equestrian situations where it is not wanted.
- Envy has a short 7 day stock withdrawal period so animals can return quickly
- Envy is very safe to grass and won’t hold back its growth
Treat when green

Buttercups are best controlled when they are still green and leafy and before the main flowering period. You will still get control during flowering but for the best effect treat now.

Establish with clients now if there are buttercup populations that warrant control. If so then treat with Envy at 2.0 L/ha.

Envy is a professional use product so must be applied by someone with an appropriate certification to spray. For some farmers and more likely equestrian businesses the services of a spray contractor will be required.

Envy is sold is a 3 litre pack and applied at 2.0 L/ha will treat 1.5ha (3.7 acres).

Clean start for new-sown leys with PastorTrio

Investing in a new-sown ley can cost up to €450/ha or more so it’s vital that where weeds are present they are removed as that cost ratchets up more if you get it wrong.

Taking out a proportion of the grass on a farm for a new ley takes commitment and planning to ensure enough grass is left to feed the animals while the new ley comes up to a productive level.

Recent market research show farmers have concerns about poor establishment and the cost of reseeding. It’s vital then to embrace solutions to maximize success.

There are very few herbicides approved for use on new sown leys so PastorTrio®, new this year, will be much valued for the significant range of weeds that it controls including chickweed, fat hen and seedling docks and seedling thistles.

With three active ingredients – including fluroxypyr, clopyralid and the new grassland active ingredient florasulam, it is particularly safe to use on young grass.
- Spray once three grass leaves have appeared
- It is a suspension emulsion formulation
- Apply at 1.0 L/ha any time from 1st February to 31st August.
- Comes in a 3 litre pack that treats 3 hectares (7.5 acres)
- Apply in 200 litres of water
- Rainfast in two hours.

For best results apply when the weeds are small and actively growing. Be aware, that broad-leaved weeds not present at spraying will not be controlled.

Farmers should not roll or harrow the grass ten days before or seven days after application. They should not spray where clover is a valued constituent of the sward. Clover can be seeded in 3 months post application of PastorTrio.

Spraying with PastorTrio early in the sward’s life will ensure a good clean start, allowing the grass mixtures to establish quickly with no competition from weeds.

Click here for the technical information sheet on PastorTrio.

A new herbicide option for Maize

PastroTrio can be used on maize and will control many broad-leaved weeds that emerge post sowing.

Weed competition at the early stage of the maize crops can significantly affect its potential. A very broad spectrum weed control solution that can also be used in new sown leys will prove an attractive option for livestock farmers.

- In addition to weeds mentioned above, it will control, black nightshade, bindweed & knotgrass. For a full list of weeds see the PastorTrio technical information sheet.
- Apply between the third and sixth leaf stage and before the crop is more than 20 cm tall. It must not be applied once the buttress roots have started to develop on the first node.
- Application window is currently from 10th April to 31st May. Dow AgroSciences is working to extend this end date for 2018.
- Grass can be sown after the maize has been harvested within the year of treatment with no adverse effect.
- The dose rate is the same as for new sown leys; at 1 litre/ha applied is 200 litres/ha of water.
Introducing Zypar broad leaved weed herbicide

Zypar®, a very wide spectrum broadleaf weed herbicide for both winter and spring cereals was recently approved and with spring planting well underway, we have prepared a number of videos to help you understand and most importantly, get the most from Zypar this spring.

Zypar has a powerful combination of the new active ingredient ARYLEX™ active together with the well-established active ingredient florasulam. Regardless of weather conditions, Zypar sets the industry benchmark for consistent, robust control of your most competitive weeds including cranesbill, mayweed, groundsel, poppy, fumitory, fat hen, charlock, cleavers and chickweed – whatever the weather!

- Provides broad spectrum weed control irrespective of the weather or weed growth pattern – if you can travel it will work
- No following crop restrictions
- No cultivations required before sowing most crops
- Robust weed control: brassica weeds, chickweed, cleavers, fumitory, fat hen, dead nettle, mayweeds, poppy and cranesbill
- Excellent multiway compatibility including: ACCase graminicides, ALS graminicides, PGRs Fungicides and trace elements

To watch a short video on Zypar: flexible broad-leaf weed control - click here

For flexible broad-leaved weed control, choose Zypar this spring.

Getting the best from Pixxaro EC in cereals

Pixxaro® applications are underway across the country – delivering great control of cleavers, cranesbill, fumitory, and poppy.

Mixing with DFF or ½ rate SU is common in situations with significant weed pressure.

In areas where large residual herbicide stacks have been used, cleavers and cranesbill seem to be the only weeds coming through and 0.375 L/ha Pixxaro + adjuvant will control these weeds and many others.

Plan also for Pixxaro in spring cereals, again depending on spectrum, using 0.375 – 0.5 L/ha + adjuvant will pick up the weeds that come through, or 0.375 L/ha + ½ rate SU will be a great mix. Pixxaro can also be mixed with Axial with no restrictions on rate.

For more information on Pixxaro EC click here

More information can be found at www.dowagro.com/ie/
Use plant protection products safely. Always read the label and product information before use. Pay attention to the risk indications and follow the safety precautions on the label.

Triple Rinse Containers and Invert to Dry at Time of Use.

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DoxstarPro contains fluroxypyr & florasulam
Forefront T contains aminopyralid & triclopyr
Envy contains fluroxypyr & florasulam
PastorTrio contains florasulam, fluroxypyr & clopyralid
Zypar contains florasulam & halaxifen-methyl (Arylex™ Active)
Pixxaro EC contains fluroxypyr & halaxifen-methyl (Arylex™ Active)