



Safe use of grassland herbicides

Major weeds such as docks, thistles, and rushes are serious yield robbers in established grassland. May and June are ideal months to control these weeds. Care should be taken when applying herbicides to grassland. Safety for the user and the surrounding environment is paramount for the continued availability of these herbicides into the future.

MCPA is the most commonly used herbicide in grassland, especially to control rushes. Ideally cut rushes and allow reasonable regrowth before using a herbicide. Weed lickers can be used but only with a glyphosate product. Before application of a herbicide, ensure the target is dry with no rain forecast for 48 hours, and the field is dry underfoot with no standing water, as this can lead to leakage to nearby

rivers. If in doubt, delay application until better conditions arise.

There are a number of factors all farmers should consider when using grassland herbicides:

- your sprayer must be officially tested before use this year;
- only purchase as much herbicide as you need for the application;
- do not fill sprayers directly from rivers or streams;
- maintain boom 0.5m above the target to minimise spray drift;
- only apply to within 5m from field boundaries (or as per product label);
- wash out and clean down the sprayer in the field;
- triple rinse spray cans before disposal; and,
- ensure you have the proper safety equipment (gloves, face mask, etc.).

Call in to store today for expert advice on our full range of grassland chemicals all at competitive prices

Issue: May 2017

Milk Supply and Price

The milk price for April is 32.00 cent per litre (incl. Vat.) for milk of 3.60% Butterfat and 3.30% Protein.

Summer series of farm walks will take place on **31st May**.

Topics include:

- Soil Improvement
- Devenish Nutrition
- Grass varieties & reseedling
- Teagasc&Goldcrop
- Grassland weed control
- Teagasc&Goldcrop

Venues and times will be displayed closer to date of farm walk

RESEEDING SPRING 2017

Teagasc recommends you should reseed 10-15% of your farm every year but currently only 1-2% of grassland is reseeded annually. Reseeding is one of the best short to medium term investments you can make on your farm.

Key reasons to reseed are:

24 Month payback



Reseeding will now cost you circa €250 per acre. However, reseeded grassland can repay you for this investment within 18 months to two years and you can expect swards reseeded in 2017 to last 8-10+ years on your farm if correctly managed.

Old permanent pasture is inefficient i.e. you are losing 25% of the response to your Nitrogen fertiliser applications. On top of this, your old pastures have reduced digestibility and intake potential.



More Milk

High perennial ryegrass swards allow 8% higher milk output per hectare compared to old permanent pasture.



Grow more Grass (when you need it most)

Recent research in Teagasc Moorepark has shown that your old permanent pasture typically produces 3 tonne/ha less than 100% PRG. The main difference is in spring (before mid-May), when it is most needed. Swards with a low content of Perennial Ryegrass (PRG) are reducing your profit by €300/ha (€120/acre) due to reduced dry matter (DM) production alone.

Improved fertiliser response



4. Select the most suitable grass seed mixture for your situation i.e. the very best varieties available (N.B.) as this mixture is likely to be in the ground for 10 years or more.
5. Sow 10 bags of grass seed for every nine acres to be sown in good conditions. Increase the seed rate in poor conditions.
6. Ideally cover seeds and roll well to ensure good contact between the seed and the soil.
7. Apply 60 Kg/ha (48 units/Ac) of nitrogen at or after sowing.
8. Monitor closely for pest attack and take action where necessary. Slugs, Leatherjackets, Frit Fly and Rabbits are the main threat.
9. Post emergence weed control is essential particularly to control docks and thistles. Normally apply herbicide five-six weeks after sowing. Where clover is important use Legumex DB as it is safe on clover.
10. Regular light grazings when conditions are good are recommended to encourage the development of the new sward while avoiding poaching.

USE only quality grass seed from reliable sources call instore today for best prices

Why reseeding in the spring is recommended

- Reseeding in spring is much more reliable with a wider window for sowing and post emergence herbicide sprays (vital for dock control) plus improved clover establishment.
- The time that a sward is out of production can be limited to two to three months. Trials from Moorepark clearly show that even when a sward is out of production for this length of time, their annual DM production can be similar or even greater than old permanent pasture accessible for the entire year.



Reseeding Best Practice

As already outlined, reseeding can pay for itself within 18 months to two years. However to achieve this payback it is critical to successfully establish and manage the new sward. To ensure successful establishment the following reseeding best practise guide is strongly recommended.

1. Take a representative soil sample and send for analysis. If ploughing, wait until after ploughing to soil sample
2. Spray off the old pasture with 6L per ha (4.25 pts/Ac) Glyphosate e.g. Gallup. Allow 7 - 10 days after spraying before cultivating.
3. Prepare a fine, firm seedbed and apply Lime, Phosphate and Potash as per soil test results.

North Cork Premium Gold with Clover/No CLOVER

Abergain	2.0kg
Dunluce	2.0kg
Aberchoice	3.5kg
Drumbo	2.5kg
Clanrye	2.0kg
Aberherald	0.5kg

Premium North Cork Silage

Perennial ryegrass Rosetta	4kg
Perennial ryegrass Soloman	4kg
Perennial ryegrass Fintona	4kg

Premium north Cork Heavy Land

Kintyre	4.25kg
Clanrye	4.75kg
Drumbo	4.5 kg
Pel Buddy	0.5kg