

FACTSHEET

Lucerne establishment (Spring) weed control options

Time and money invested in weed control at lucerne crop establishment will be repaid in productivity and stand longevity. Product selection will depend on the weed profile, but some agrichemical options and application rates are listed below.

**THIS IS A GUIDE ONLY.
ALWAYS READ THE LABEL AND
SEEK SPECIALIST ADVICE.**

Trifluralin (e.g. Treflan)

- Four days pre-plant incorporated into cultivated ground
- Double pass for best results
- 1.5-2.5 L/ha depending on product and soil type
- Requires soil moisture for best results
- Ensure ground is firm for best results.

Susceptible		
Amaranth sp	Annual poa	Red dead nettle
Barnyard grass	Catchfly	Chickweed
Spurrey	Wireweed	Witchgrass
Redroot	Scarlett pimpernel	Fathen
Cleavers	Cornbind	Yellow gromwell
Range of grasses		
Resistant		
Nightshade	Clovers	Fumitory
Mallows	Shepherd's purse	Storksbill
Twin cress	Turnip	

Flumetsulam (e.g. Preside)

- Rate ranges from 30-65 g/ha depending on the weed you're tackling
- The addition of Uptake Spraying Oil 500 ml/100 L required
- 100-300 L water/ha
- Apply from second trifoliate leaf stage right through to mature plants
- Apply during active growth while weeds are small.

Susceptible		
Chickweed	Sorrel	Spurrey
Wild radish	Wireweed	Willow weed
Henbit	Oxeye daisy	Black nightshade
Cleavers	Fathen	Mallow
Shepherd's purse		

Imezethapyr (e.g. Kyte)

- Use 400 ml/ha plus Hasten or non-ionic surfactant
- Will only control seedling weeds
- Don't use if there is a split strike of lucerne. The bulk of the seed needs to be through and to two-three true leaves
- Suseptible seedlings strike but may turn yellow and red and remain small.

Check label for other weeds controlled.

Susceptible		
Cleavers	Hedge mustard	Dock
Dovesfoot	Storksbill	Chickweed
Catsear	Catchfly	Chamomiles
Dandelion	Fathen	Annual poa
Mallows	Nightshade	Shepherd's purse
Sorrel	Fumitory	Henbit
Twin cress	Willow weed	Wireweed
Yarrow	Spurrey	

2,4-DB

- Apply during active growth
- 6-8 L/ha in 100-200 L/ha water, as soon as two trifoliate leaves appear
- Weeds need to be small and actively growing
- Don't apply if over 50% soil is showing to avoid too much root uptake.

Susceptible		
Annual buttercups	Cresses	Fathen
Field bindweed	Hedge mustard	Nettles
Plaintains	Redroot	Witchgrass
Redroot	Shepherd's purse	Annual thistles
Wild turnip		
8 L/ha		
Cornbind	Nodding thistle	Ragwort
Willow weed	Wireweed	Docks

Other agrichemical options

- Clethodim (e.g. Sequence) for certain grasses.
- Paraquat (e.g. Gramoxone) can be used in late winter if lucerne is well established to tidy up annual weeds.
- Chlorimuron-ethyl (e.g. Classic) – dandelions in stands over a year old. Not very effective in medium to heavy soils.

- Propyzamide (e.g. Kerb) – established stands, sorrel and some grasses.
- Asulam (e.g. Asulox) – docks in established stands.
- Metribuzin (e.g. Sencor) – broad leaf weeds in established stands.
- Bentazone (e.g. Dictate) – nodding thistle and storksbill.

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B+LNZ RESOURCES

 www.knowledgehub.co.nz

Further reading to download:

- Lucerne weed control options (Winter) factsheet 145
- Summary papers for establishing and managing lucerne
- Podcast – Derrick Moot: Lucerne and other dryland legumes

For hard copies of publications please email: resources@beeflambnz.com

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