

Grassland Pesticide Training

Mentor (senior advisor) for a Pesticide Advisor (Grassland) student

The mentor should be an experienced advisor working in the area where the student is based. The mentor should be available to the student through the duration of the course and until all modules are complete. The mentor's key role is to bring experience and good practice to how the student approaches the control of weeds in grassland.

Who is suitable to be a Mentor?

The mentor should have:

- At least 5 years' experience of managing grassland and weed control in grassland
- Have a good working knowledge of Integrated Pest Management
- Be available to work with the student from April to November
- Be willing to take the student on farm visits focused on grassland management and weed control in grassland

Role of the Mentor

The key role of the mentor is to:

- help and guide the student learning in the grassland area
- allowing the student to shadow on-farm visits and guide assessments of weeds and control
- bring their experience to help the student to effectively communicate recommendations to a farmer
- monitor and review the student's grassland recommendation templates

Some Questions and Answers

Can I mentor somebody outside my company or organisation?

Yes providing the mentor is suitable and has enough time to spend with the student through the year.

How much time will being a mentor take up?

This is dependent on the needs of each student. Outside the time spent by the student shadowing the mentor during normal farm visits there will probably be a couple of short meetings again helping the student to better understand good grassland management.

Does the mentor have to provide details of their experience to the course organiser?

This will not initially be requested however spot checks will be made through the course especially where student assignments are not up to an acceptable standard.

How many times should a mentor bring the student into the field?

Ideally as often as possible especially to show the student different scenarios where control measures may or may not be needed.

