



Weed Control

Weed control is one most important job that will need to be carried out in the coming weeks in all crops. While we have a good suite of products to choose from, knowledge of the field and the predominant weeds is also vitally important when it comes to getting good control, as not all products perform the same on all weeds. Don't rely on one or two products for your entire programme rather mix and match products depending on their respective strengths and weaknesses, sticking rigidly to a set programme across all fields is likely to give less than optimum control.

It is also important be aware of weather conditions when spraying, residual herbicides such as metribuzin work best when there soils are moist so ideally apply after a wet or damp day. The break in the weather at the moment should help in this regard with rain forecast over the coming week. This should provide ideal conditions for many of the early April planted crops.

See table 1 for common options or mixes.

Table 1: Common pre-emergence herbicide options for maincrop potatoes

Product mix (Rate/ha)	Comments
Metribuzin (Shotput/Buzzin/Sharmetrin) 0.5 kg or Sencorex Flo 0.6 L + Emerger 2.0 L	Emerger adds cleavers, black bindweed, knotgrass and sowthistle control to sencorex weeds.
Metribuzin (Shotput etc.) 0.5 kg or Sencorex Flo 0.6 L + Defy/Roxy 4 L	Defy adds better control of cleavers and AMG. Useful nightshade control
Stomp Aqua/Most Micro 2.9 L + Metribuzin (Shotput etc.) 0.5 kg or Sencorex Flo 0.6 L	Very useful where black nightshade likely to be a problem. Broad spectrum control but poor on cleavers and bindweed
Stallion 2.5 - 3.0 L + Metribuzin (Shotput etc.) 0.5 kg or Sencorex Flo 0.6 L	Good all round mix. Stallion must be applied at least 7 days before emergence to avoid bleaching etc.
Proman 2.5 L + Metribuzin (Shotput etc.) 0.5 kg or Sencorex Flo 0.6 L	Good on amg, knotgrass, groundsel, charlock & mayweeds. Cleavers not controlled.
Proman 2.0 L + Metribuzin 0.5 kg or Sencorex Flo 0.6 L + Defy/Roxy 2.0 L	Good broad spectrum weed control for dirty fields, suitable for light & medium to heavy soils. On very light or sandy soils leave out the metribuzin.
Spotlight Plus 0.33 L or Gozai 0.4 L + Metribuzin (Shotput etc.) 0.5 kg or Sencorex Flo 0.6 L	Spotlight will give similar control to diquat but must take away the 0.33 L from the total dose of 1.6 L/ha when using for desiccation.

Aim to achieve as much control as possible pre-emergence as the choices for post emergence control are limited to Basagran, Sencorex etc. (with varietal restrictions) or Titus when it comes to broadleaf weeds. Grass weeds however can be controlled by any of the approved graminicides such as Claw, Falcon, Satchmo, Pilot Ultra, Fusilade Max or Stratos Ultra (See Table 4).

Some growers have opted in the past to use glyphosate as a pre-emergence option but remember it is only a contact herbicide and will not have any residual effect, crops should be at least 5 cm from the surface with no cracking visible on the drill.

See table 2 for details of all approved herbicides for potatoes for the coming season.

Table 2: Approved Herbicides for Potatoes 2021

Product (Active ingredient)	Company	Mode of Action	Crop timing	Rate /ha	Comments
Anthem (PDM 400 g/L)		Residual /Contact	Pre Emergence	3.3 L	Ideally tank mix with Metribuzin @ 0.5 kg
Basagran (Bentazone 480 g/L)	BASF	Contact	Post Emergence	1.5 L	Limited weed spectrum. Good on brassicas, cleavers, chickweed, marigold, redshank.
Buzzin/Shotput/ Sharmethrin (Metribuzin 700 g/l)	Croplink/ DHM/ Unichem	Contact & Residual	Earlies -Pre Emerge Maincrop pre & post upto 6" high	*0.75 kg depending on soil type	Wide spectrum, knotgrass best applied as pre-emerg. Bindweed best applied as post emerg. Cleavers resistant. Check labels for varietal tolerance
Claw / Falcon / Farmco Zealot (Propaquizafop 100 g/L)	Croplink /DHM / Farmco	Contact	Post Emergence	1.0-1.5 L	Will severely check amg at the 1.5 l/ha rate up to 3 leaf stage of the grass.
Defy/ Crozier/ Roxy (Prosulfucarb 800 g/L)	Syngenta / Barclay/ DHM	Residual	Pre Emergence	4.0 L	Best used as tank mix
Emerger/Chanon (Aclonifen 600 g/l)	Bayer/DHM	Contact	Pre Emergence	2.0-3.0 L	Can be used in a mix use higher rates for cleavers & knotgrass
Fusulade Max (Fluazifop-P-butyl 125 g/L)	NuFarm	Contact	Post Emergence	1.5-3.0 L	No oil Required
Gozai (Pyraflufen-ethyl 26.5 g/L)	Whelehans	Contact	Pre Emergence or early post emergence	0.4 L	Good mixer with metribuzin containing products
Most Micro/ Fastnet (PDM 365 g/L)	Unichem/ Hygeia	Residual /Contact	Pre Emergence	3.6 L	Ideally tank mix with Metribuzin @ 0.5 kg
PDM 330 (PDM 330 g/L)	BASF	Residual /Contact	Pre Emergence	4.0 L	Ideally tank mix with Metribuzin @ 0.5 kg
Pilot Ultra (Quizalofop-P-ethyl 50 g/l)	Unichem	Contact	Post Emergence	0.75 -1.25 L	Vol. cereals, w. oats controlled at lower rates. Use higher rates when weeds are tillering.
Proman (Metobromuron 500 g/l)	Whelehans	Residual	Pre Emergence	4.0 L	Useful mixer for knotgrass, groundsel, charlock & mayweeds
Sencorex Flo (Metribuzin 600 g/l)	Bayer	Contact & Residual	Earlies -Pre Emerge Maincrop pre & post upto 6" high	0.85 -1.15 L	Wide spectrum, knotgrass best applied as pre-emerg. Bindweed best applied as post -emg. Cleavers resistant. Check

					labels for varietal tolerance
Spotlight Plus / Clayton Xenon (Herbicide) (<i>Carfentrazone-ethyl</i> 60 g/l)	Whelehans	Contact	Before 10% emergence	0.33 L	Can be used as a desiccant also, but must take the 0.33 l/ha rate from the total dose of 1.6 l/ha
Stallion (<i>PDM</i> 333 g/l + <i>Clomazone</i> 45 g/l)	Whelehans	Residual	Pre Emergence	3.0 L	Good weed spectrum. Apply at least 7 days before emergence.
Stomp Aqua (<i>PDM</i> 455 g/L)	BASF	Residual /Contact	Pre Emergence	2.9 L	Ideally tank mix with Metribuzin @ 0.5 kg
Stratos Ultra (<i>Cycloxydim</i> 100 g/L)	BASF	Contact	Post emergence	1.5 – 4.0 L	1.5 L/ha Wild oats 4.0 l/ha for scutch
Titus (<i>Rimisulfuron</i> 25% ww)	Du Pont	Contact	Post emerge up to 10 “ of crop	50 g	*Must use wetter

Choosing the correct product as mentioned earlier is critical in achieving the optimum control of weeds.

Table 3 below shows the susceptibility of the weeds to different herbicides.

Table 3; Weed Susceptibility Chart 2021

Weed Name	Defy	Emerger	Proman	Sencorex Pre-em	Spotlight Plus	Stallion	Stomp Aqua	Basagran	Sencorex Post em	Titus
AMG	S	S	S	S			S	R	S	MS
Annual nettle		MS	S	S	S				S	S
Bl nightshade	S	MS	MS	R	S	S	S (d)	S	MS	MS
Bl bindweed		S	MS	MS	S		MS	MS	S	MS
Black Grass		MS		S		MR	S	R	MS	
Charlock		S	S	S	S		S	S	S	S
Chickweed	S	S		S		S	S	S	S	S
Cleavers	S	S	MR	R	S	MS	MS (d)	S	R	S
Corn marigold		R					S	S	MS	
Cranesbill	MS	MS	S		MS			S		
Cr thistle		R								
Dead nettle R	S		MS	S	S	S	S	MS	S	S
Fat hen		S	S	S	S	S	S		S	MR
Fool's parsley			MS					S		
F penny cress				S					S	MS
Fumitory		R	MS	S	MS		MS (d)	MS	S	S
Groundsel		R	S	S	S		S	MS	S	MS
Hempnettle				S	S		S	MR	S	S
Knotgrass		S	MS	MS	S	S	S	MR	MS	MS
Mayweed		S	S	S	MS	MS	S (d)	S	S	S
Mustard w.								S		S
OSR vol.	S	S	S	S	S		S	S	S	S
Orache	MS	S	S	S	S		S	MS	S	MS
P. persicaria	MS	S	MS	S	S		S	S	S	MS
Pansy, field	MS	S	R	S	MS	S	S	R	MS	
Poppy		S	S	S	MS		S	MS	S	
Redshank	S	S	MS	S	S	MS	S	S	S	S
Rough mg							MS			
Rye grass per		MR		S		MR			S	
Scutch				R					R	MS
Small nettle		MS					S	S		
Sheperd purse		S	S	S	S		MS	S	S	
Sheep's sorrel				S					S	
Sowthistle		MS	S	MS	MS		MS	MS	MS	
Speedwell	S	MS	MR	S	S	S	S	MS	S	
Wild oats	MS	R	S			MR				MS

S - susceptible

MS –Moderately susceptible

MR- Moderately resistant

R - Resistant

(d) = if applied in dry conditions follow up application of a post emergence herbicide may be needed.

Table 4 shows the various graminicides that are available for potatoes, the grass weeds that they control and the rates required.

Table 4: Approved Graminicide Herbicides 2021

	Falcon/Claw100/ Satchmo Rate (L/ha)	Fusilade Max Rate (L/ha)	Pilot Ultra Rate (L/ha)	Stratos Ultra Rate (L/ha)
V. Cereals	0.7 - 1.0	1.0 - 1.5	0.75 - 1.25	2
Wild oats	0.7 - 1.0	1.0 - 1.5	0.75 - 1.25	1.5
Annual Meadow Grass	Checked @ 0.7 - 1.0 Severely checked @ 1.5	-	-	-
Smooth S. Meadow Grass	-	-	-	2
Italian Rye Grass	-	1.5	1.25	1.5
Perennial Rye Grass	1.2	1.5		1.5
Loose S. Bent	-			1.5
Sterile Brome	0.7 - 1.0	1.0 - 1.5		2
Black Grass	-	1.0 - 1.5		2
Black Bent	-	3		3
Creeping bent	-	3	-	-
Scutch	1.5	3	2.5	3.0 - 4.0
Authorised crops	Ware	Ware & Seed	Ware	Ware & Seed

Teagasc have produced a video looking at how to achieve the best control of weeds in potatoes in the video attached below.



TAMS

On the recent Teagasc Seed Potato the Minister for Agriculture, Charlie McConalogue, announced that haulm toppers are now approved for TAMS grant aid. Anyone who wishes to avail of the grant should contact their advisor as soon as possible. See the link below for a recording of the webinar

Recent Seed Potato Webinar



Seed Potato Webinar
Thurs 15th April 6.30-7.30pm

With Q&As

Guests & Topics include:

- Minister for Agriculture Charlie McConalogue
- Minister for State, Pi
- Brexit and seed impo with Barry Delaney, DAFM
- New developments in virus monitoring
- Virus control in the field



Copyright © 2021 Teagasc, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Teagasc
Oak Park
Carlow, Co. Carlow
Ireland