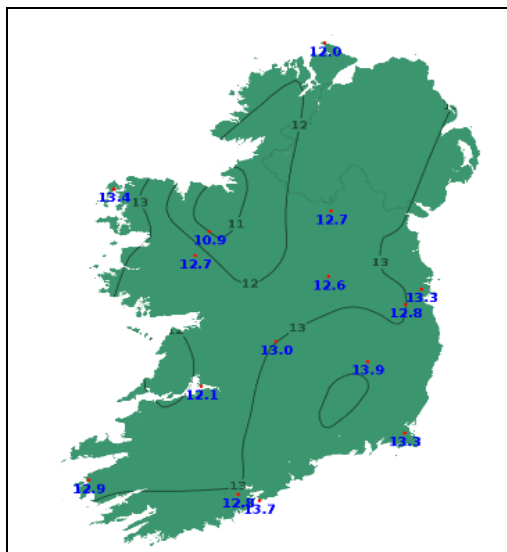


PLANTING

Planting will be complete in practically all areas by early to mid-May, conditions have been generally good so far. Soil temperatures are between 4 & 5 °C above normal which means crops will emerge relatively quickly.

Figure 1: Soil temperature for week ending April 27th



Source Met Eireann

This should also help to reduce the amount of infection from diseases such as rhizoctonia on the crop. However it also means that crops will emerge faster with many of the early planted crops now starting to appear above ground.

WEED CONTROL

Good weed control is vital for crops to reach their full potential. Weeds will compete for nutrients and light which will reduce the amount available to the crop. Therefore a good weed control strategy needs to be planned.

Where possible growers should identify which weeds are going to be problematic

in each field and then construct a herbicide package that will give maximum control. Many growers have a favourite program which they use across the board. Quite often this may lead to certain weeds coming through resulting in problems in the crop afterwards as post emergence options are limited. Therefore growers need to consult the weed susceptibility chart enclosed (Table 3) and then decide which products will give most control in each situation, bearing in mind that there are likely to be different products needed in different fields.

One lesson that many growers learned in 2018 was that dry beds reduce the efficacy of all the residual herbicides with only the contact herbicides really giving any control. Residual herbicides work best when there is surface moisture on the drills or beds as they can then move through the soil profile to the root zone where they will start to work. Deep rooting weeds such as fat hen will send roots downwards in search of moisture in dry conditions which means they will not take up the herbicide. Therefore aim to apply residual herbicides when soil is damp but make sure no heavy rain is imminent in the hours after application.

Table 1 overleaf shows popular options for pre-emergence weed control in maincrop potatoes.

Where crops are emerging in dry conditions consider a two pronged strategy, using contact based herbicides such as Diquat or Carfentrazone. Alternatively, Emerger, which is new from Bayer this year, can be used and is not dependant on soil moisture. Follow this up with a post emergence application of metribuzin type product e.g. (Shotput/Buzzin/Sharmethrin/Sencorex Flow) however you will need to check

labels for varietal suitability and also note that metribuzin products are not recommended on sandy soils.

Titus can be used post emergence alone or mixed with metribuzin to improve the control of cleavers, charlock and chickweed. Titus however is not recommended on seed crops as it may cause mottling of the leaves that can be similar in appearance to virus damage.

Table 1: Pre-emergence herbicide options 2019

Product	Comment
*Diquat 200g/L (Retro, Quad, etc.) 2.0 L/ha +Agrol	Standard recommendation to be added to residual herbicides
Spotlight Plus 0.33L/ha	Alternative to diquat
Metribuzin (Shotput/Buzzin/Sharmetrin) 0.5 kg or Sencorex Flo 0.6 L Plus *Diquat as above	Good on fat hen, black bindweed, redshank, pale persicaria, Poor on cleavers
Metribuzin (Shotput/Buzzin/Sharmetrin) 0.5 kg or Sencorex Flo 0.6L Plus Emerger 2.0L/ha	Emerger adds cleavers, black bindweed, knotgrass and sowthistle control.
Metribuzin (Shotput/Buzzin/Sharmetrin) 0.5 kg or Sencorex Flo 0.6L Plus Defy/Roxy 4L/ha Plus *Diquat as above	Defy adds better control of cleavers and AMG. Useful nightshade control
Stomp Aqua/Most Micro Plus Metribuzin 0.5 kg or Sencorex Flo 0.6l/ha Plus *Diquat as above	Very useful where black nightshade likely to be a problem. Poor on cleavers
Stallion 2.5-3.0L/Ha Plus Metribuzin 0.5 kg or Sencorex Flo 0.6l/ha Plus *Diquat as above	Good all round mix. Stallion must be applied at least 7 days before emergence to avoid bleaching etc.

***Diquat is now in the use up period with the last date for use 4th February 2020.**

As diquat will not be available in 2020 for weed control in maincrop varieties, growers should look at alternative programs and experiment a little to see which products work best in different circumstances.

Table 2; Post-emergence broad leaf weed control

Product	Comment
Titus 25g/ha + (Shotput/Buzzin/Sharmetrin) 0.35 g/ha or Sencorex Flo 0.4l/ha + Non Ionic Wetter 0.1% Follow in 10 days with Titus 25g/ha + Non Ionic Wetter 0.1%	Use where cleavers a known problem. Second application will take late germinating cleavers. Check varietal restrictions
Titus 50kg/ha + Non Ionic Wetter 0.1%	Usually a follow up treatment when where targeting cleavers also very useful control of scutch. Check varietal restrictions.

Post emergence applications of metribuzin products are only recommended up to crop height of 15cms. They are **not** recommended on varieties such as Rooster, Markies, Lady Rosetta or Maris Piper post emergence for crop safety reasons (Pic 1).

Picture1: Herbicide bleaching post emergence



Grass weeds, wild oats and volunteer cereals can be controlled post emergence with graminicides such as Falcon/ Claw, Fusilade Max, Stratus ultra. For best control apply when the grass weeds are small. Check each label for rates and the grass weeds controlled

Table 3 overleaf shows the susceptibility of common weeds to each product.

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Table 3: Weed Susceptibility Table for Potatoes 2019

Common Weed Name	Sencorex Pre-em	Sencorex Post-em	Stomp Aqua Pre-em	Emerger Pre-emerg	Defy Pre-em	Stallion Pre-emerg	Diquat Pre-em	Spotlight Pre-em	Titus Post-em
Annual meadow-grass	S	S	S	S	S		S		MS
Annual nettle	S	S		MS				S	S
Black nightshade	R	MS		MS	S	S	S	S	MS
Black bindweed	MS	S	MS	S			S	S	MS
Black Grass	S	MS	S	MS		MR	S		
Charlock	S	S	S	S			S	S	S
Chickweed	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S
Cleavers	R	R	MS	S	S	MS	S	S	S
Corn marigold		MS	S	R			S		
Corn mint							S		
Cranesbill				MS	MS		S	MS	
Creeping thistle				R			S		
Red dead nettle	S	S	S		S	S	S	S	S
Fat hen	S	S	S	S		S	S	S	MR
Fool's parsley									
Field penny cress	S	S					S		MS
Fumitory	S	S	MS	R			S	MS	S
Groundsel	S	S	S	R			S	S	MS
Hempnettle	S	S	S				S	S	S
Knotgrass	MS	MS	S	S		S	S	S	MS
Mayweed	S	S	S	S		MS	S	MS	S
Mustard white									S
Oilseed rape (Vol)	S	S	S	S	S		MS	S	S
Orache	S	S	S	S	MS		S	S	MS
Pale persicaria	S	S	S	S	MS		S	S	MS
Pansy, field	S	MS	S	S	MS	S	S	MS	
Poppy common	S	S	S	S			S	MS	
Redshank	S	S	S	S	S	MS	S	S	S
Rough meadow grass			MS						
Rye grass perennial	S	S		MR		MR			
Scutch	R	R							MS
Small nettle			S	MS			S		
Shepherd's purse	S	S	MS	S			S	S	
Sheeps sorrel	S	S							
Sowthistle	MS	MS	MS	MS			S	MS	
Speedwell	S	S	S	MS	S	S	S	S	
Wild oats				R	MS	MR	S		MS