

# Potato Newsletter

## May 2020

### WEED CONTROL

Most growers are finished planting earlier this year than would normally be the case, with some crops starting to break ground weed control will be due in the coming weeks. 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.

Where possible avoid applying residual herbicides such as metribuzin onto dry beds as this will significantly reduce the efficacy of the herbicides with only the contact herbicides really giving any control. Remember the residual herbicides will need to give control for up to six weeks until the canopy closes so you need optimum conditions at application.

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. Avoid disturbing the soil after residual applications as this will allow germination of weeds.

Use a mix of active ingredients that will give the maximum amount of cover as many of the problematic weeds as possible.

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 Spotlight Plus, Proman or Emerger, which are not totally dependent on soil moisture. Some growers are even considering using approved glyphosate products pre-emergence in the dry conditions, this is very risky however, and you must be sure that the sprouts are at least 5 cm from the soil surface and that there are no cracks in the beds otherwise you could severely damage or kill the crop.

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 is not recommended on seed crops as it may cause virus-like mottling on the leaves.

**Table 1: Pre-emergence herbicide options 2020**

Product mix (Rate/ha)	Comments
Metribuzin (Shotput/Buzzin/Sharmetrin) 0.5 kg <b>or</b> 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 <b>or</b> 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 <b>or</b> 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 <b>or</b> 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 /ha + Metribuzin (Shotput etc.) 0.5 kg <b>or</b> Sencorex Flo 0.6L	Good on amg, knotgrass, groundsel, charlock & mayweeds. Cleavers not controlled.
Proman 2.0 L + Metribuzin 0.5 kg <b>or</b> Sencorex Flo 0.6L + 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 + Metribuzin (Shotput etc.) 0.5 kg <b>or</b> 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.

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

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).

Consult all product labels before applying post emergence herbicides.

**Picture 1: Herbicide bleaching post emergence**



**Table 2; Post-emergence broad leaf weed control**

Products (Rate/ha)	Comments
Titus 25 g + Metribuzin (Shotput etc.) 0.35 kg + Non Ionic Wetter 0.1% Follow in 10 days with Titus 25 g + Non Ionic Wetter 0.1%	Use where cleavers a known problem. Second application will take late germinating cleavers.
Titus 50 g + Non Ionic Wetter 0.1%	Usually a follow up treatment when where targeting cleavers also very useful control of scutch.
Basagran 1.0 kg + 0.65 kg (If needed)	Do not tank mix or use when metribuzin has been used post-em. Can be used when metribuzin used pre-em (rate 0.85 kg/ha + Actiption 1.5 l/ha). Needs good growing conditions.

Grass weeds, wild oats and volunteer cereals can be controlled post emergence with graminicides such as Falcon/Claw/Satchmo, Fusilade Max, Pilot Ultra or Stratus Ultra. For best control apply when the grass weeds are small. See table 4 for rates and the grass weeds controlled.

*Shay Phelan*

Teagasc Potato Specialist

087-7985195

[shay.phelan@teagasc.ie](mailto:shay.phelan@teagasc.ie)

**Table 3: Weed Susceptibility Table 2020**

Common Weed Name	Pre Emergence							Post Emergence		
	Defy	Emerger	Proman	Sencorex	Spotlight	Stallion	Stomp Aqua	Basagran	Sencorex	Titus
Annual meadow-grass	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		
Creeping thistle		R								
Red dead nettle	S		MS	S	S	S	S	MS	S	S
Fat hen		S	S	S	S	S	S		S	MR
Fool's parsley			MS					S		
Field 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 white								S		S
Oil seed rape volunteers	S	S	S	S	S		S	S	S	S
Orache	MS	S	S	S	S		S	MS	S	MS
Pale persicaria	MS	S	MS	S	S		S	S	S	MS
Pansy, field	MS	S	R	S	MS	S	S	R	MS	
Poppy common		S	S	S	MS		S	MS	S	
Redshank	S	S	MS	S	S	MS	S	S	S	S
Rough meadow grass							MS			
Rye grass perennial		MR		S		MR			S	
Scutch				R					R	MS
Small nettle		MS					S	S		
Shepherd's 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

**Table 4; Approved Graminicides**

	<b>Falcon/Claw100/ Satchmo Rate (L/ha)</b>	<b>Fusilade Max Rate (L/ha)</b>	<b>Pilot Ultra Rate (L/ha)</b>	<b>Stratos Ultra Rate (L/ha)</b>
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