

## **Post Emergence Management of Grass/Clover Seedlings is vital**

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After going to the trouble and expense of reseeding (up to €320/acre), it is important to have a dense clover-grass sward available for your stock next spring. Post emergence management of Ryegrass and Clover seedlings, along with weed control, are both vital in order to achieve this.

### **Post Emergence Management:**

The aim of reseeding is to allow grass and clover seedlings establish and develop after sowing. Allowing the grass to get too high will shade out the clover seedlings. Grass seedlings will not tiller out in this situation either. Best suggested practice is to first lightly graze the sward with sheep or weanlings before closing for the winter. This will encourage the young grass plants to tiller out and the sward to thicken up. A light grazing also exposes emerging clover to light and enables it to develop and grow. If possible, **delay any cutting of silage for twelve months** to allow grass tillering and clover establishment. Some light grazing of the reseeded sward may need to be carried out over the winter months to prevent grass from getting too high. A bag of CAN/acre can be applied in spring next year with a tight first grazing being undertaken. Avoid poaching of reseeded swards when grazing. Remove stock during periods of heavy rainfall.

### **Weed Control:**

The best time to control weeds is at the 4 leaf stage in weed seedlings. By using a clover safe post emergence spray, seedling weeds can be destroyed before they develop and establish root stocks. Established weeds can seriously reduce the yield potential and economic lifetime of the reseeded sward. The post emergence spray should be applied approximately six weeks after establishment just before the first grazing takes place. Seedling Docks and Thistles along with tillage weeds such as Redshank, Fat Hen, Charlock and Chickweed can be controlled in newly established swards by using Legumex DB, Alistell and Underclear/Undersown and Mastercrop Undersown. These sprays will not damage seedling clover after the trifoliate leaf stage; and they will not affect young grass shoots. Alistell and Underclear would be the products of choice if chickweed is present. Follow the manufacturer's advice on the information leaflet on each pack/container of spray in relation to rates/ha and dilution rates.

**Pest Control:**

Pests such as Leatherjackets, Wireworms and Frit flies should not be a problem in grass seedlings if the seedbed and field margins were free of trash and decaying organic material at the time of sowing. This deprives these pests of the environment on which they thrive. Due to the wet weather slugs and leatherjackets could be a problem in heavier soils.

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