

Teagasc New Ley Weed Control Guide 2016

- Applying a herbicide to a new grass ley is the most cost effective spray you will use on that field.
- Control of docks, thistles and chickweed etc is much easier when these weeds are seedlings
- Product choice is decided by the presence or absence of clover in the new ley.

Do I need to spray my new 'clean' re-seed?

- **Yes** (in most cases) as there is up to 100,000 dock seeds per acre ready to germinate in fields.
- **Yes** as you will kill all weeds easier when they are seedlings
- **Yes** as you will maximise your investment

What weeds do I need to worry about?

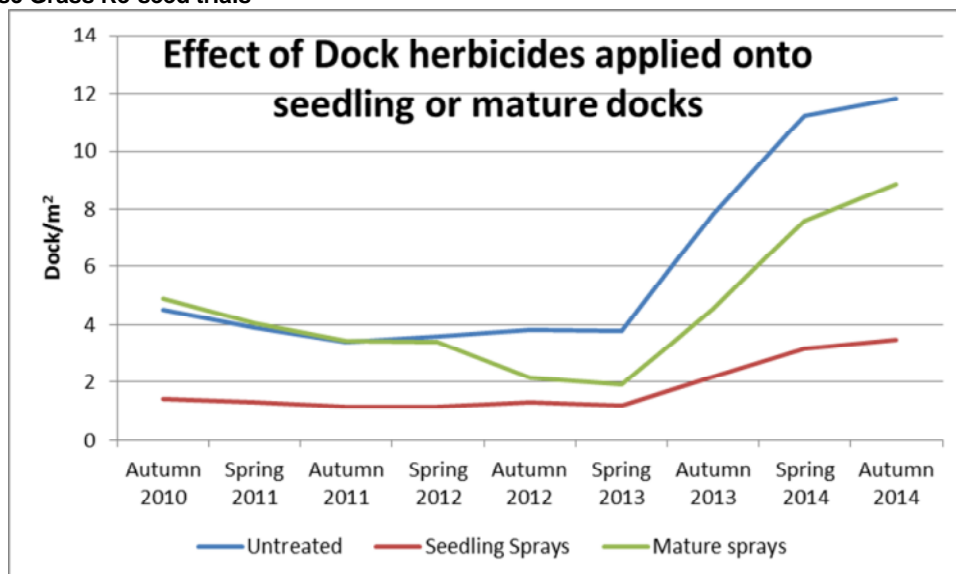
Annual weeds such as Fumitory, Fat Hen, and Deadnettle only live for 1 year. These weeds should not affect the establishment of the new sward (unless present in high numbers – if so spray them). They are normally removed by grazing, cutting or leaving them die naturally over winter.

Perennial Weeds such as Docks, Dandelions, Creeping Buttercup, and Creeping Thistle etc can be tolerated (at low numbers) in an intensive grazing situation, however it is still better to spray them now rather than in a few years time. In silage/hay fields you should always spray for these perennial weeds after re-seeding as they will build up their root reserves and take over the grass.

Help the spray work

- Have an even, vigorously growing sward.
- Apply the herbicide onto small, actively growing weeds (e.g. dock leaf = size of €2 coin)
- Spray 6-8 weeks after re-seeding when there are 3 leaves on the grass and 1 true leaf on the clover
- Avoid spraying in very dry or cold conditions (talk to your advisor/merchant if this is the case).
- Keep water rates high 220-350 l/ha (20-30 gallons per acre).
- Remember to keep the prescribed cross-compliance records and follow the product label.

Teagasc Grass Re-seed trials



- Field re-seeded late Autumn 2009
- 'Seedling' herbicides applied Spring 2010, 'Mature' sprays applied Spring 2012
- Very good control of docks for 4 years from all re-seed sprays
- One year control from all 'Mature' sprays; Forefront best for long term control

Common Weeds of New Leys



Seedling Creeping Thistles

Left: Creeping Thistle re-growth from old roots
Right: Creeping Thistle from seed
Note difference in leaf shape and also in root system



Seedling Chickweed

Note the 'point' at the end of each leaf

Seedling Broad-leaved Dock

Photo taken 5 weeks after re-seeding



Seedling Creeping Buttercup

Photo taken 5 weeks after re-seeding



Teagasc Product Guide to Herbicides in New Leys 2016

Trade Name	Clover Safe	Pack Size	Rate/Ha	Comment	Cost €/ac
LegumexDB Undersown Clovex DB Plus	YES	5 L	7 L/ha	Controls moderate levels of docks, thistles, etc and most annual weeds. Needs small actively growing weeds for best effect. Apply after 2 leaf stage of grass and from 1 leaf clover stage.	20
LegumexDB + Triad	YES	5 L 5 tabs	5.0 L/ha + 10g/ha	Best broad spectrum clover-safe option Apply after 2 leaf stage of grass and from 1 leaf clover stage. Add Triad to the tank first and then Legumex DB.	26
Underclear (Nintex)	YES	10 L	7 L	Similar weeds controlled as Alistell	19
Starane2, Binder, Hurler, Reaper	NO	1 L	0.75 L	Best option for high numbers of docks, chickweed, dandelion, nettles. Limited use on thistles and buttercups. Apply from 3 leaf grass stage	7

- Straight versions of CMPP (Duplosan, Optica etc) and MCPA are no longer registered for use on grass.
- *Cutting/grazing restrictions may need to be extended to allow for poisonous weeds e.g. ragwort
- Water rate generally 200 - 400 l/ha
- Follow the product label and keep prescribed Cross-compliance records

Teagasc Susceptibility Guide to Herbicides in New Leys

	Clover 'Safe' Herbicides			Non-Clover 'Safe' Herbicides
	Legumex + Triad	Underclear (Nintex)		Starane2 (& various)
Black Bindweed	S	MR		S
Creeping Buttercup	MS	MR		-
Charlock	S	S		R
Chickweed	S	MS		S
Cleavers	MS	R		S
Dandelion - seedling	MS	MS		S
Docks - Seedling	S	MS		S
Fat Hen	S	S		R
Forget-me-not	-	R		S
Fumitory	MS	MS		MR
Groundsel	MS	MR		MR
Knotgrass	S	MS		MS
Mayweed	MS	R		MS
Nettle - Hemp	R	R		MS
Nettle - Red Dead	R	R		MS
Nettle - Small	MR	MS		-
Nightshade	-	MR		S
Orache	S	MS		R
Pansy	MS	MR		-
Pale Persicaria	-	MS		MR
Poppy - Common	S	MS		R
Ragwort	R	MS		-
Redshank	S	MS		MR
Runch	MS	MS		R
Shepards Purse	S	S		R
Thistle (Creeping)	S	MR		R
Thistle (Ann Sow)	S	S		-
Speedwells	MS	R		MR

Weed growth stage 2 - 4 true leaves, actively growing, and all weeds from seedlings.
S = Susceptible; R = Resistant; M = Moderately