

news | better pasture weed control in winter

04 April 2001

If you want better weed control and pasture production this season consider spraying your pasture weeds in the winter is the advice of Don Wardle, Nufarm's Territory Manager

Many of the weeds that invade pastures germinate in the autumn in gaps left in the pasture from the dry summer, spot spraying of weeds, insect damage and over grazing. Left uncontrolled these weeds can become a major problem in spring and summer by competing with your pasture for moisture and nutrients.

The option spraying of these weeds in spring or summer when they are large and hard to kill means higher rates are required. This increases the cost of control and may also suppress valuable clover production. Some weeds are difficult to control at this time and even if successful control is obtained the dead weeds can leave more gaps in your pasture for other weeds to germinate!

Boom spraying during winter has many advantages including being quick, easy and cost effective. Boom spraying enables you to get complete coverage of your paddocks at a time when the weeds are small and easier to kill. Clover growth is also normally dormant at this time, which greatly reduces any impact on this important part of your pasture.

Nufarm NZ has a product that is ideal for winter weed control called Baton®. Baton is a new non-volatile, low odour herbicide that is soft on clovers, tough on broadleaf weeds and presented in environmentally friendly packaging.

Spraying contractor Paul Breeding, one of the first to use Baton in Nelson says 'Baton is a real breakthrough. "Not only does it control a wide range of weeds including ragwort and thistles it is also less damaging to white clover than the liquid formulation I had been using. Baton's water soluble bag packaging with its lack of smell was easy and safe to use and it meant I had no plastic containers to triple rinse and dispose of - a big plus for applicators like myself!"

For more information on pasture weed control Nufarm has available a revised edition of 'The Nufarm Guide to Grassmanship' all about renovating and maintaining great pastures. For a free copy e-mail us or phone 0800 683 276.