



Grassland weed control

60 years of success

60 years ago a group of products called phenoxies were invented in Britain and the United States.

Phenoxies are now a general term used for a group of herbicides which mimic the effect of auxins – natural plant growth hormones. These hormones can only be found in plants.

Auxins regulate the growth of the plant and one of their functions is to make the plant grow towards the light.

Application of phenoxies overdoses the plant leading to uncontrolled growth, thickening and twisting until the plant grows itself to death.

Phenoxy herbicides are truly systemic and travel throughout the plant.

Low cost solution for grassland weeds

Phenoxies are the only solution for a wide range of grassland weeds. For some of the top weeds such as Thistles, Docks and Nettles, phenoxies can give very good control if applied at the best timing.

Resistance

Due to the fact phenoxies mimic a natural plant hormone it is very difficult for a weed to develop resistance. Unlike many modern chemicals, there have been few resistance issues with phenoxies.

Residue issues with manure

There are no recorded problems of residues in manure.

Why control grassland weeds?

- Permanent grassland will succumb to patches of Docks, Nettles, Thistles and other weeds reducing grazing area, yield and nutritional value of silage or hay
- Weed infestation will reduce palatability which results in selective grazing and accelerates sward degeneration
- Long term leys will degenerate as weed grasses take over
- Weeds poisonous to livestock, such as Ragwort, represent a major threat to livestock
- Several weeds are covered by legislation and enforcement orders can be issued for their control
- Most weeds can produce thousands of seeds which can germinate and cause problems over many years

Phenoxies and phenoxy mixtures from Nufarm

This is not a complete list of Nufarm phenoxy mixtures. Contact your agchem distributor form more information.

Nufarm Product	Agritox	Depitox	Mircam Plus	High load Mircam	Lupo
Actives	MCPA	2,4-D	Mecoprop-p + MCPA + Dicamba	Mecoprop-p + dicamba	2,4-D + MCPA
Earliest timing	Grass established for more than one year	Grass established for more than one year	Rotational grass from three leaf stage onwards	Rotational grass, start of tillering	Grass established more than one year
Clover safety	Will severely damage clover	Will severely damage clover	Clover killed	Clover killed	Clover killed
Can be applied by Knapsack sprayer	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Minimum period between spraying and return of livestock	Two weeks	Two weeks	Two weeks	Two weeks	Two weeks
LERAP	B	Unclassified	Unclassified	Unclassified	Unclassified

Six most common weeds in order of importance (Source Nufarm Survey of 150 grassland farmers)

Grassland under 12 months	Grassland 1-5 years	Permanent grassland
Docks	Docks	Thistles
Thistles	Thistles	Docks
Chickweed	Nettles	Nettles
Nettles	Chickweed	Chickweed
Redshank	Buttercup	Rushes
Buttercup	Ragwort	Ragwort

Best phenoxy products and timings

Always read the label. Good control can be obtained at the best timing, however regrowth can occur and re-treatment may be needed in the following season. Phenoxies are commonly used in mixtures with a limited number of other products to optimise control. Contact your agchem advisor for more information.

Weed problem	Best Timing	Best phenoxy or phenoxy mixture
	<p>Docks Controlled by phenoxyes at the seedling stage. Best to treat regrowth 2-3 weeks after cutting</p>	<p>Best Products High Load Mircam Mircam Plus Best actives mecoprop-p and dicamba mixtures</p>
	<p>Thistles Can be controlled at the seedling stage. Best controlled just prior to flowering. Also controlled well when re-growth has commenced following cutting</p>	<p>Best products Agritox Depitox Lupo Mircam Plus Best actives MCPA or dicamba</p>
	<p>Nettles Can be controlled well at the seedling stage. Cut and treat re-growth when about 20-30cm high for best results. If Nettles haven't been cut spray when 30cm tall but some re-growth likely</p>	<p>Best Products Depitox Lupo Best active 2,4 D</p>
	<p>Chickweed Treat when it occurs</p>	<p>Best products High load Mircam Mircam Plus (Small plants only) Best actives Products containing mecoprop-p</p>
	<p>Buttercup Seedlings will be controlled. Optimum timing Just prior to flowering in the spring. Bulbous Buttercup best controlled in the autumn in warm, moist conditions</p>	<p>Best products Agritox Depitox Mircam Plus Best Actives MCPA , dicamba, 2,4-D</p>
	<p>Ragwort Best treated when at the rosette stage shown here.</p>	<p>Best products Lupo Depitox Best actives 2.4 D or dicamba</p>
	<p>Rushes Best control 3-4 weeks after cutting.</p>	<p>Best product Agritox Best active MCPA</p>
	<p>Redshank Best controlled at the young plant stage</p>	<p>Best products Mircam Mircam Plus Best actives Dicamba mixtures as above work best</p>

Stewardship

Phenoxies are valuable tools in the war against grassland weeds. These products are soluble in water and although they do not persist long in the environment, they can easily get into water courses. Always think how product can accidentally get into watercourses and take action to prevent this

The most important things which can be done are listed below:

Before spraying

Do not fill a sprayer on a hard surface where a drainage can lead to contamination of watercourses.

Use a drip tray or portable bund when filling the sprayer or fill in a bunded area.

Triple rinse containers before storage and store undercover before disposal.

Check sprayer for drips and leaks before travelling to the field.

When spraying

Keep a minimum of five metres away from watercourses when spraying.

Never spray when heavy rain is likely to cause surface run off within 48 hours of spraying.

For more information consult the Voluntary Initiative website www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk

24 hour Emergency number 01274 696603

Technical helpline 01274 694714

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