

Lucerne Winter Weed Control Options

This is a Guide only. ALWAYS read and follow product labels; if in doubt, seek specialist advice

Paraquat

Paraquat is a fast acting contact herbicide which desiccates all green plant tissue but is deactivated with soil contact. Paraquat forms the back bone of all winter spray programmes over established lucerne in a tank mix combination with a suitable triazine. Full leaf coverage is essential. Lower water rates normally show up as a spotting effect on the leaves, as the chemical only kills what it touches. Paraquat is a knockdown herbicide, but is non-residual, so is not effective enough on its own for weeds with a taproot or rhizomes

Atrazine

Atrazine has a large weed spectrum of broadleaf weeds and easy to control grasses. A good knockdown and moderate residual activity, with a soil half-life of 35-50 days.

is the stand at least 1 year old	yes	↓	use	
is the lucerne dormant	yes			
is the lucerne short	yes			
are the weeds clean & short	yes			
has the stand been heavily grazed recently	yes			don't use - allow to freshen
are the grasses clumpy/cocksfoot	yes			don't use - see Terbutylazine

Susceptible
Annual grasses
Shepherds purse
Storksbill- use higher rate
Subterranean clover

Simazine

Better residual control- soil half life of 27-102 days, but hardly any knockdown ability. Use where there is not a lot of weed cover or on lighter soils.

have plants developed root crowns	yes	↓	use	
is the stand at least 1 year old	yes			
is the lucerne dormant	yes			
is the lucerne short	yes			
are the weeds clean & short	yes			don't use - allow to freshen
is the ground wet or frosty	yes			don't use - allow to freshen

Susceptible	Mod Susceptible	Resistant
Barley Grass	Cocksfoot	Dandelion
Chickweed	Daisies	Horehound
Poa annua	Ryegrass	Hawksbeard
Shepherds Purse	Sweet Vernal	Mallow
Soft Brome		Nodding Thistle
Storksbill		

Terbutylazine

Has both root and leaf uptake with a residual soil half life of 30-60 days. It is the best triazine to use on catsear, dandelion, storksbill, cocksfoot and grasses, but it can affect Lucerne so needs to be applied as early in the winter as possible. Terbutylazine also has a 4 week withholding period for grazing.

is the stand at least 2 years old	yes	↓	use	
is the lucerne dormant	yes			
is the lucerne short	yes			
are the weeds clean & short	yes			
has the stand been heavily grazed recently	yes			don't use - allow to freshen
is the ground wet or frosty	yes			don't use - allow to freshen

Susceptible		
Barley Grass	Dove's Foot	Shepherds Purse
Black Nightshade	Fathen	Storksbill
Browntop	Lotus	Sweet Vernal
Catsear	Poa spp	Thistles
Chickweed	Red Root	Willow Weed
Clovers	Ryegrass	Yorkshire Fog
Cocksfoot	Seedling gorse	

Non-ionic surfactant

Adequate water rate and spray coverage is essential with Paraquat use along with fresh clean water. Always apply with 250lt of water per ha and the addition of non-ionic surfactant helps to distribute the herbicide over the leaf surface and to also prevent runoff. Never use Pulse Penetrant. Pulse should only be added to Roundup where non selective weed control is required.

Graze out the stand to remove Lucerne leaf and if a frost is present, delay application until the frost has thawed.

Ideally once grazed a rain is preferred to remove all dirt from the surface leaf area of the Lucerne and weeds to prevent the Paraquat from being deactivated