

Grassland Range 2024

Protecting grassland across the UK.



Grassland management. The key to success.

Grassland management.

Protecting and getting the most out of grassland is vital for maximising grassland productivity, stock numbers and profitability.

Weeds in particular can compete very fast for space, light, soil water, soil nutrients and reduce grassland productivity quickly if left to establish.

Ensuring a well-planned, long-term approach to grassland management and weed control is essential to keep productivity high.

Grassland weed control. Tackling problem weeds.

Weed control in grassland is a key factor in successful grassland farming and herbicide spray applications should be applied safely, according to the product label and taking care for the environment with a sustainable approach.

Improve your grass yields

Bad or severe weed infestations can easily incur yield losses of 10–20% in fields.

Improve your silage quality

Weeds such as docks and thistles in particular detrimentally affect silage quality.

Keeping your grazing stock healthy

Weeds like thistles can spread diseases such as Orf in sheep and lambs.

Improve grassland utilisation

Sheep and cattle often avoid grazing close to or around weed patches (especially thistles) which reduces effective grassland utilisation over time.

Prolong the pasture life

Weed control ensures less productive weeds and other grasses are kept out and the target grass ley species mix is competitive so pasture renewal is less frequent.



Broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*)
and Curled dock (*Rumex crispus*)

Docks

Why control docks:

Docks thrive in fertile grassland pastures but compete for valuable space and only provide two-thirds of the feed value of grass from the same area. One dock plant can produce up to 60,000 seeds which can remain viable for many years.

Open swards which can result from poaching, over-grazing or winter kill provide space for docks to establish and infest fields. Docks establish more easily on grazed land and in silage systems and respond well to nitrogen fertiliser.

Control options and application tips:

Herbicides* containing active ingredients such as fluroxypyr and triclopyr provide excellent treatment options. Docks are best controlled at the rosette stage when actively growing and not under stress, and leaves are a healthy green.

Thistles

Why control thistles:

Creeping thistle when established has extensive roots underground and competes very strongly with grass, and as a perennial it grows from seed or portions of root. Spear thistle can spread to cover over a square metre of ground within two years so is a serious threat to grassland productivity, and as a biennial growing from seed it is less obvious in its first year but can spread rapidly in its second year.

Timing of control can be difficult as thistles can appear at different times and over-grazing and poor soil nutrition can also both encourage growth of thistles.

Control options and application tips:

Herbicides* containing active ingredients such as fluroxypyr, triclopyr and clopyralid provide useful treatment options. Where thistles are at different growth stages in the pasture, topping 2-3 weeks before spraying is advisable.



Creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and
Spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)



Nettles (*Urtica dioica*)

Nettles

Why control nettles:

Nettles infestations very quickly spread out and occupy valuable pasture as they grow, making pasture unpalatable and reducing the effective grazing. As a perennial weed they can grow from both seed or root portion so are very invasive.

Poached areas, bare soil, field margins or open swards are ideal areas where nettles will establish.

Control options and application tips:

Herbicides* containing active ingredients such as fluroxypyr, triclopyr and clopyralid provide good treatment options. Nettles are best controlled when young and actively growing at 15–25cm high. Once established, nettles are difficult to control by a single treatment, so regular treatments may be required.

Chickweed

Why control chickweed:

As the most widespread, common annual weed of grassland, its very rapid growth means it competes strongly with grass leading to significant yield losses especially when establishing new grass leys.

Often a significant problem in new reseeds, it can also be troublesome in established grassland as it can quickly grow and colonise bare soil areas.

Control options and application tips:

Herbicides* containing active ingredients such as fluroxypyr, triclopyr and clopyralid provide good treatment options. Ensure good, quick establishment of new swards and that seedbeds are clean and weed free. Use of a heavy roll can also help fast establishment when sowing new grass leys to achieve good soil to seed contact.



Common chickweed (*Stellaria media*)



HERBICIDE



Clayton Docker™

Foliar acting herbicide for the control of broad-leaved dock and curled dock in established grassland.

150 g/l fluroxypyr + 150 g/l triclopyr, EC formulation



Target weeds:

Weeds controlled:	Rate of use (L/ha)	Optimum time of application
Broad-leaved dock, Curled dock	2.0	At the rosette stage up to 200 mm tall or across

Application details:

Apply Clayton Docker at 2.0 litres/ha in 300 to 400 litres of water as an overall treatment in the autumn or spring for the control of docks. Use the higher volume of water where the weeds are large at the time of application and where the grass is dense. Application timing of Clayton Docker is crucial for good control and must be made when the weeds and grass are actively growing to ensure good weed control and minimal check to the grass.

Docks should be treated in the rosette stage and within the size given above. It is important that there is sufficient leaf area for uptake of the herbicide. This is particularly true on well-established docks which will have an extensive tap root, but which early in the spring or soon after cutting may only have a few small leaves. If the grass (and hence the weeds) has been cut for conservation hay or silage, or has been grazed, leave for 2 to 3 weeks to allow sufficient regrowth to occur before spraying.

To allow maximum translocation of Clayton Docker to the roots do not cut grass for 28 days after application.

On large well-established docks and where there is a large reservoir of seed in the soil a further control programme in the following year may be required.

Established Grassland	
Maximum Individual Dose:	2.0 litres product per hectare
Maximum Total Dose:	2.0 litres product/hectare/ annum
Latest Time of Application:	7 days before grazing or harvest
Other Specific Restrictions:	Livestock must be kept out of treated areas for at least 7 days after treatment.

Grass and weeds must be actively growing to ensure good weed control and minimal check to the grass.

Do not spray in drought, very hot or very cold weather. Control may be reduced if rain falls within 2 hours of application.

Do not roll or harrow grass for 10 days before or 7 days after application.

Clover will be killed or severely checked by application of Clayton Docker. Clayton Docker is safe to established grassland. Very occasionally some yellowing of the sward may occur; this is transient and quickly outgrown.

Grazing Interval:

Exclude livestock during treatment and do not allow livestock to graze treated grassland for at least 7 days following treatment.

Where ragwort is present, users should consult the Code of Practice on How To Prevent The Spread Of Ragwort. Ragwort plants sprayed with this herbicide are more palatable with higher levels of toxins.

Animals should be excluded from treated areas until any ragwort has completely recovered or died and there is no visual sign of the dead weed.

Do not include any treated ragwort in hay or silage crops.





HERBICIDE



Clayton Grazer™

A foliar acting herbicide for the control of nettles, docks, thistles, brambles, broom and gorse in established grassland.

60 g/l clopyralid + 240 g/l triclopyr, EC formulation



Established Grassland	
Maximum Individual Dose:	2.0 litres product per hectare
Maximum Total Dose:	2.0 litres product/hectare/ annum
Latest Time of Application:	7 days before grazing or harvest
Other Specific Restrictions:	Livestock must be kept out of treated areas for at least 7 days after treatment.

Weed control

The following weeds will be controlled by an application of Clayton Grazer at a rate of 60 ml of product in 10 litres of water (6 ml product in 1 litre of water). ONLY apply Clayton Grazer using a hand held sprayer.

Target weeds:

Crop	Time of application to crop
Common nettle	Spray when actively growing but preferably before flowering (normally up to mid-June)
Broad-leaved dock, Curled dock	Treat in the spring when the docks are in the rosette stage up to 25 cm high. On large well established docks, or where there is a high reservoir of seed in the soil, a second application the following year maybe required.
Creeping thistle	Spray when actively growing but before flowering spikes are 15 cm high. Application of Clayton Grazer at flowering or during seeding is likely to produce reduced levels of control.
Bramble, broom and gorse	Spray in June–August when actively growing but before plants begin to senesce in the autumn. It is essential that, particularly with large bushes, all the foliage is thoroughly wetted or incomplete kill may result.

The weeds should be thoroughly wetted with the spray solution but spraying until “run-off” will decrease activity. The use of flood jets is recommended to prevent drift. Care should be taken to avoid local overdosing.

If the grass has been cut for hay or silage or grazed leave for 2–3 weeks to allow sufficient regrowth to occur before spraying. Grass and weeds must be actively growing to ensure good weed control and minimal check to the grass.

To allow maximum translocation of Clayton Grazer to the roots do not cut grass for 28 days after application.

Other important information

Applications must not be made outside the period of 1st March to 31st October.

Do not apply Clayton Grazer onto or around manure or other compost heaps.

Do not roll or harrow grass for 10 days before or 7 days after application.

Do not spray in drought, very hot or very cold weather.

Clover will be killed or severely checked by an application of Clayton Grazer but it is safe to grass. Very occasionally some yellowing of the sward may occur; this is transient and quickly outgrown.

Do not sow kale, swedes, turnips or grass mixtures containing clover by direct drilling or minimum cultivation techniques within 6 weeks of applying Clayton Grazer.

Clayton Grazer residues in plant tissues (including manure and digestate) which have not completely decayed may affect succeeding susceptible crops e.g. peas, beans and other legumes, carrots and Umbelliferae, potatoes and tomatoes, lettuce and other Compositae. Do not plant susceptible autumn-sown crops (e.g. winter beans) in the same year as treatment with Clayton Grazer. Where susceptible crops are to be planted in the spring do not apply Clayton Grazer later than the end of July of the previous year. Following good agricultural practice ensure that plant remains have completely decayed before planting susceptible crops.

Do not use any plant material treated with Clayton Grazer for composting or mulching.

Do not use manure from animals fed on crops treated with Clayton Grazer for composting or mulching.

In hot conditions, vapour drift may occur, making it particularly important to assess the risk to neighbouring vegetation.

Take extreme care to avoid drift onto crops and non-target plants outside the target area.

Do not apply directly to or allow spray drift to come into contact with agricultural or horticultural crops, amenity plantings or gardens, ponds, lakes, or water courses. All conifers, especially pine and larch, are very sensitive to spray drift.

Grazing Interval:

Exclude livestock during treatment and do not allow livestock to graze treated grassland for at least 7 days following treatment. Where ragwort is present, users should consult the Code of Practice on How To Prevent The Spread Of Ragwort.

Ragwort plants sprayed with this herbicide are more palatable with higher levels of toxins. Animals should be excluded from treated areas until any ragwort has completely recovered or died and there is no visual sign of the dead weed. Do not include any treated ragwort in hay or silage crops.



HERBICIDE



Clayton Flurry™

Translocated herbicide for the control of chickweed, dock, nettles and brambles in newly sown and established grassland.

200 g/l Fluroxypyr, EC formulation



Clayton Flurry contains fluroxypyr, a translocated herbicide taken up by the leaves. It is essential that the target weeds have fully emerged before application and that good spray cover of the weed foliage is achieved when weeds are small and actively growing under warm moist conditions. Ensure grass is vigorous with growth unaffected by frost, pests, disease, nutrient deficiency or moisture stress before treatment. Do not treat waterlogged grassland or grassland under drought stress.

On grassland, do not spray swards containing clovers or other legumes as there are important constituents of the sward.

Grazing Interval:

Exclude livestock during treatment and do not allow livestock to graze treated grassland for at least 7 days following treatment.

Where ragwort is present, users should consult the Code of Practice on How To Prevent The Spread Of Ragwort. Ragwort plants sprayed with this herbicide are more palatable with higher levels of toxins.

Animals should be excluded from treated areas until any ragwort has completely recovered or died and there is no visual sign of the dead weed.

Do not include any treated ragwort in hay or silage crops.

Established Grassland

Maximum Individual Dose: 2.0 litres product per hectare

Maximum Total Dose: 2.0 litres product/hectare/annum

Latest Time of Application: -

Other Specific Restrictions: Livestock must be kept out of treated areas for at least 7 days after treatment.

Newly sown grass leys:

Maximum Individual Dose: 0.75 litres product per hectare

Maximum Total Dose: 0.75 litres product/hectare/annum

Latest Time of Application: -

Other Specific Restrictions: Livestock must be kept out of treated areas for at least 7 days after treatment.

Crop	Weeds controlled (up to size)	Time of application to crop	Use rate (L/ha)
Newly sown grass leys	Common chickweed (5cm)	In early autumn when grasses are well established and tillered and weeds are actively growing.	0.75L/ha in 150 – 400L/water/ha
Established grassland	Pre-flowering broad-leaved dock and common nettle (top growth reduction)	Broad-leaved dock: In spring at rosette stage but may be applied 14–21 days after cutting when weed foliage has regrown. Repeat if necessary the following year. Common nettle: up to mid-June when actively growing.	2.0 L/ha in 300 – 400L/ha water. For spot treatment use 30 ml/10 L water
	Bramble, broom	Spray in June – August when actively growing but before plant begins to senesce in the autumn. It is essential that particularly with large bushes all the foliage is thoroughly wetted or incomplete kill may result.	2.0L/ha in 300 – 400L/ha water.

Apply with tractor mounted/trailed sprayer in 150–400 litres of water per hectare using a minimum 300 l/ha on established grassland, to give good coverage of the target weeds. The higher volume is recommended on dense crops to ensure good coverage and penetration. Apply as a medium quality spray.

Where overall spraying is not justified, small weed infested areas or individual weeds may be spot treated by knapsack sprayer or hand-lance connected to a powered conventional hydraulic sprayer. Preferably use a flood jet to avoid spray drift.

Weed Susceptibility Guide

Products Quick Reference

Annual Weeds	Clayton DOCKER	Clayton FLURRY	Clayton GRAZER	Perennial Weeds	Clayton DOCKER	Clayton FLURRY	Clayton GRAZER
Black bindweed	6 TL	6 TL		Bindweed (field)			
Bristly ox-tongue				Bracken			
Charlock	2TL			Bramble			
Chickweed		Flowering		Broom			
Cleavers		Flowering		Burdock			
Corn chamomile				Buttercups			
Corn marigold				Cinquefoil			
Cranesbill				Clover/Trefoil			
Dead-nettle	4TL	4TL		Coltsfoot			
Fat-hen	2TL		2TL	Cow parsley			
Fool's parsley				Daisy (common)			
Forget-me-not	4TL	Flowering		Daisy (ox-eye)			
Fumitory	2TL	2TL		Dandelion			
Groundsel		2TL		Docks	200mm		
Hemp-nettle		Flowering		Gorse			
Himalayan balsam				Ground elder			
Knotgrass	2TL	2TL	4TL	Ground Ivy			
Mayweeds		2TL		Hawthorn			
Nettle (small)	100mm			Hemlock			
Black nightshade	6TL			Hogweed			
Orache				Horsetail			
Pale persicaria		2TL		Japanese knotweed			<1m
Poppy				Knapweed			
Redshank		2TL		Lesser celendine			
Scarlett pimpernell				Mallow			
Shepherd's purse	2TL			Medick (black)			
Speedwells		2TL		Mugwort			
Spurrey				Nettle (common)			
Wild radish	2TL			Old man's beard			
Yellow rattle				Plantain (greater)			
				Plantain (ribwort)			
				Ragwort			
				Rosebay willowherb			
				Rushes			
				Self-heal			
				Silverweed			
				Sorrel			
				Thistles			Rosette
				Verch, tare			
				Yarrow			
				Yellow/Flag Iris			

Rates

Clayton DOCKER 2 l/ha

Clayton FLURRY 1l/ha

Clayton GRAZER 60 ml/10l water

Key

Good control	Moderate control	Some control	No control
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Disclaimer: The above Weed Susceptibility chart is for reference and information only, it is not a recommendation. Always refer to the full product label and/or consult with your agronomist for further guidance.

Find out more

For further information on products in this guide and our full product range please scan the QR code or visit our website.



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