

Just a selection of products to aid grassland management

Ryegrass and reformulations

A silage inoculant that promises to improve silage quality, some new grass varieties and a dock-knocking herbicide with a new formulation are just some of the tools available to help make 2013 a grass growing and silage making success.

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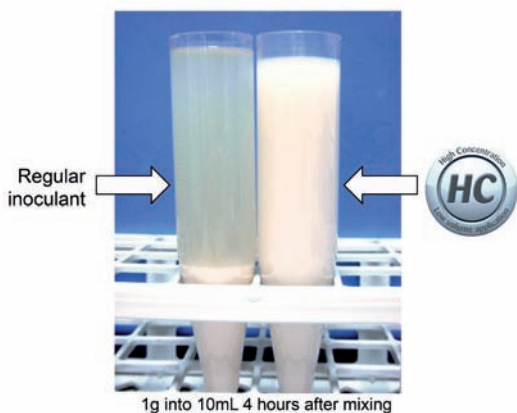
Inoculant improvements

Looking for an inoculant that guarantees more consistent mixing, less sedimentation and more even application resulting in better quality silage?

Biotol has developed a new formulation of its leading range of grass, wholecrop and maize inoculants, which it claims offers all three. "Uneven fermentation leads to patchy and variable heating, increased wastage, variable intakes and reduced performance from forage so is something to avoid," says the company's Lee Gresham. "In many cases uneven fermentation can be traced back to how the inoculant has been applied and in turn to how it is mixed."

So Biotol has launched HC formulation products for the coming silage season. Using a unique production process, HC Technology produces a concentrated inoculant, which is highly soluble at all the rates used in commercial applicators. They have a significantly lower sedimentation rate than other inoculants on the market.

"The result is a more consistently mixed inoculant and a more even application to the crop," says Mr Gresham.



Grass varieties

Five tetraploid ryegrass varieties have been added into the Sinclair McGill range of grass seed mixtures, marketed by Limagrain UK.

The varieties – Dunluce, Novello, Drift, Scapino and Aspect – will further improve the DM yield and quality of popular ley mixtures: Castlehill, Prosper, Progress and Polycrop, according to the company.

"Polycrop, a short to medium term cutting and grazing mixture now benefits from the inclusion of Novello, a late tetraploid perennial ryegrass, and Scapino, a tetraploid hybrid ryegrass," Limagrain's Ian Misselbrook explains.

"Scapino is newly recommended on the England and Wales Grass List. It is late heading and so stays leafy for longer, maintaining its digestibility. Scapino is a good addition to both cutting and grazing leys, as is Novello, a versatile variety that is already on Recommended Lists in several other European countries," he adds.

Novello also has a good disease resistance package with a top score of nine for resistance to *Drechslera* and eight out of nine for resistance to crown rust.

An above average score of six for mildew enables it to maintain its palatability and digestibility.

"Novello has also been added to the grazing mixtures Progress and Prosper, as has Dunluce, a high-performing mid-season tetraploid ryegrass," says Mr Misselbrook. It was bred by the AFBI in Northern Ireland, and has excellent digestibility and ME yield.

Dock control

Dow AgroSciences has launched a new formulation of the market-leading dock herbicide Doxstar.

DoxstarPro is a foliar-acting spray containing two key modern active ingredients, fluroxypyr and triclopyr, which together deliver a more robust and reliable effect than when used alone. They are readily translocated within the target plants, giving long-lasting control of both broad leaved and curled docks, as well as chickweed.

"This year weed control will be a greater priority for many producers," says the company's Robin Bentley.

"Many fields could not be sprayed in 2012 and poaching has produced open swards where docks will easily establish.

"So the launch of a new, improved dock herbicide is timely, as infestations of these weeds are likely to be an increasing problem on many farms," he says.

The product is a high concentration formulation, so less is needed to treat a given area, leading to easier handling and less packaging.

The maximum dose rate is now two litres per hectare per year, applied in between 300 and 400 litres of water.

Applied when the weeds are actively growing in spring or autumn, it is selective in action, so does not affect grass growth in any way.

