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Making the Most of
Grassland Reseeding
with Roundup



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EFFECTIVE

Making the Most of Grassland Reseeding with Roundup

Introduction

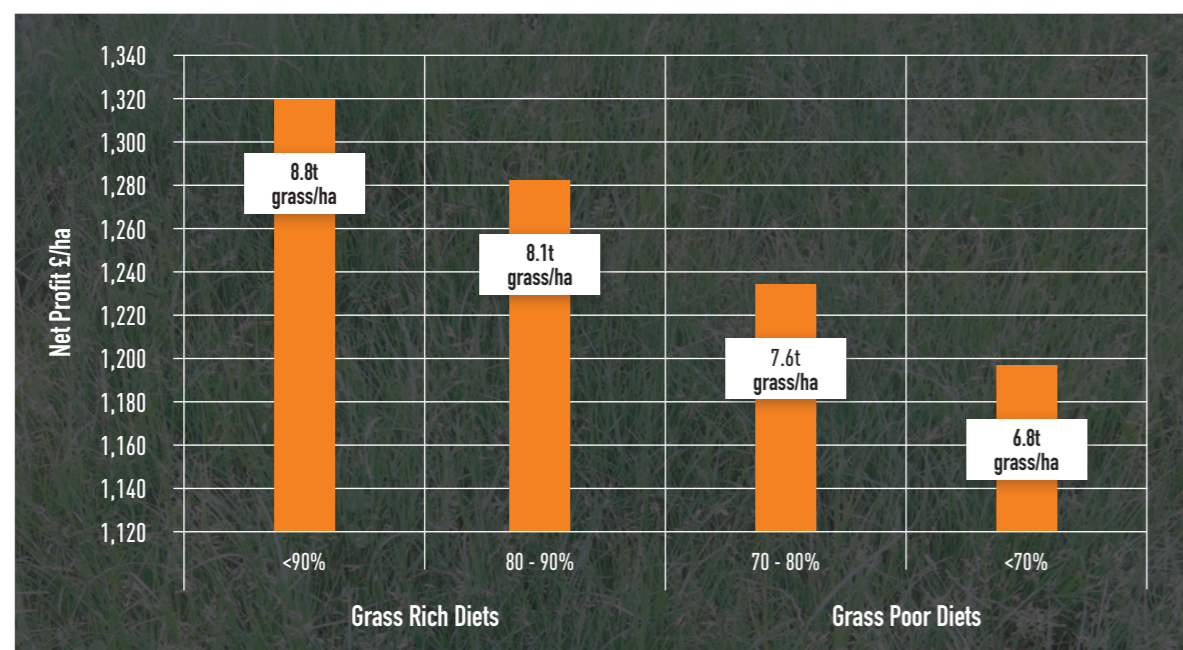
Reseeding is one of the most cost effective investments that can be made on a grassland farm. Deciding when to re-seed an old sward or pasture can be difficult, and in some cases may not be necessary with rejuvenation or renovation being most cost effective. Where a sward has become tired and exhausted, or weed infested it can be unproductive. This is when re-seeding needs to occur.

Results can be very rewarding with a new healthy and vigorous sward, utilising the latest new grass varieties, and a much longer growing season. This has plentiful benefits:

- Higher stocking rate,
- Improved live weight gains
- Increased milk production.

Studies by Teagasc, Ireland have shown focus should be on greater grass output rather than milk per cow, with huge variations in net profit between grass rich/poor diets. (Fig 1). A focus should be made to maximise grass output to cut costs thereby reducing the costs of bought in feeds on farm.

Fig 1






The Roundup Reseeding Advantage

Roundup offers unrivalled product performance with a high level of safety to the operator, livestock and the environment. It can be used not only post-cut, but also pre-cut of silage/hay or pre-grazing of grass.

Pre-cut application maximises the growing season avoiding the 3-6 weeks re-growth period, allowing new grass to establish sooner. It also offers effective long-term control; not only of the old sward grasses but also the weeds (both grasses and broad-leaved).



Roundup's most advanced formulation technologies ensure consistent performance, maximising uptake by minimising damage to plant cells, so the active ingredient can get right down to the roots of even the most troublesome perennial weeds. Especially important with the key grassland weeds such as docks, thistles and nettles.

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 Modern Roundup formulations offer reduced drift properties which have been proven in independent trials (Silsøe Spray Application Unit 2010).
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 Even with difficult weeds such as couch and thistles, cultivation can occur within 5 days allowing a clean weed-free start.
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 Formulations also have excellent rainfastness from 1 hour and top level performance in challenging conditions.

Roundup Use: Best Practice

Timings:

Spring

April-Early May

During Spring, perennial weeds will be harder to control due to stem extension, so short term or weed-free leys are better suited using a lower rate of Roundup. Grazing of the new ley can then commence around June to relieve pasture pressure.

Pre-cut:

Usually June – October for 2nd or 3rd cut.

Allow 5 days after spraying Roundup before grazing/silage cut. This ensures Roundup is fully translocated to the root for a complete kill. Ideally grass and weeds should be sprayed when they are 30-60cm in height and before the weed seeds mature.

The following crop, whether grass, fodder or arable, can be established at the earliest and most favourable opportunity-providing the most efficient use of the growing season.

Post-cut:

After cutting or grazing allow a period of 3-6 weeks for the grass and weeds to re-grow before spraying. The exact re-growth time will vary according to how tightly the sward was cut/grazed, the weeds present and the weather conditions. To ensure a good control of tough perennial weeds, make sure there is sufficient leaf area to absorb Roundup fully.

Application Rates:

	Roundup PowerMax (kg/ha)	Roundup Flex (l/ha)	Roundup Vista Plus/Energy/Sonic (l/ha)	Roundup Biactive (l/ha)
Short term 1-2yr leys with Annual weeds	1.5	2.25	2.4	3
2-4yr leys with established perennial weeds	2	3	3.2	4
Long leys 4-7 years old perennial broad-leaved weeds	2.5	3.75	4	5
Permanent pasture with established/problem weeds	3	4.5	4.8	6

Weed Wiper Applications:

- For the safest and most effective weed wiping, ensure the weeds are a minimum of 10cm taller than the crop.
- Treat the weeds post-flowering, but before weeds start to naturally senesce to optimize translocation. Target the green stems and leaves of the weeds. Beware the seed coats or fruiting parts of the plant will not translocate the herbicide into the growing parts of the weeds.
- In the case of dense infestations a double pass of the weed wiper in opposite directions will help improve coverage
- Weeds not touched by the herbicide will not be controlled. Successive applications may be needed as weeds emerge a safe height above the crop canopy.
- For dilution rates refer to application machinery manufacturer directions, but typically for ropewick wipers 1 part glyphosate to 2-3 parts water or for new generation weed wiping machines, 1 part glyphosate to 10-20 parts water

Control of Problem weeds in Grassland

Perennial weeds are poorly controlled in the spring due to rapid growth of weeds, as the flow of assimilates is greater going up the stem than that going down to the roots. Therefore to ensure successful control perennials should be treated from July through to September when plants are mature and full height has been reached. This will ensure that Roundup is fully translocated, maximising uptake and control.

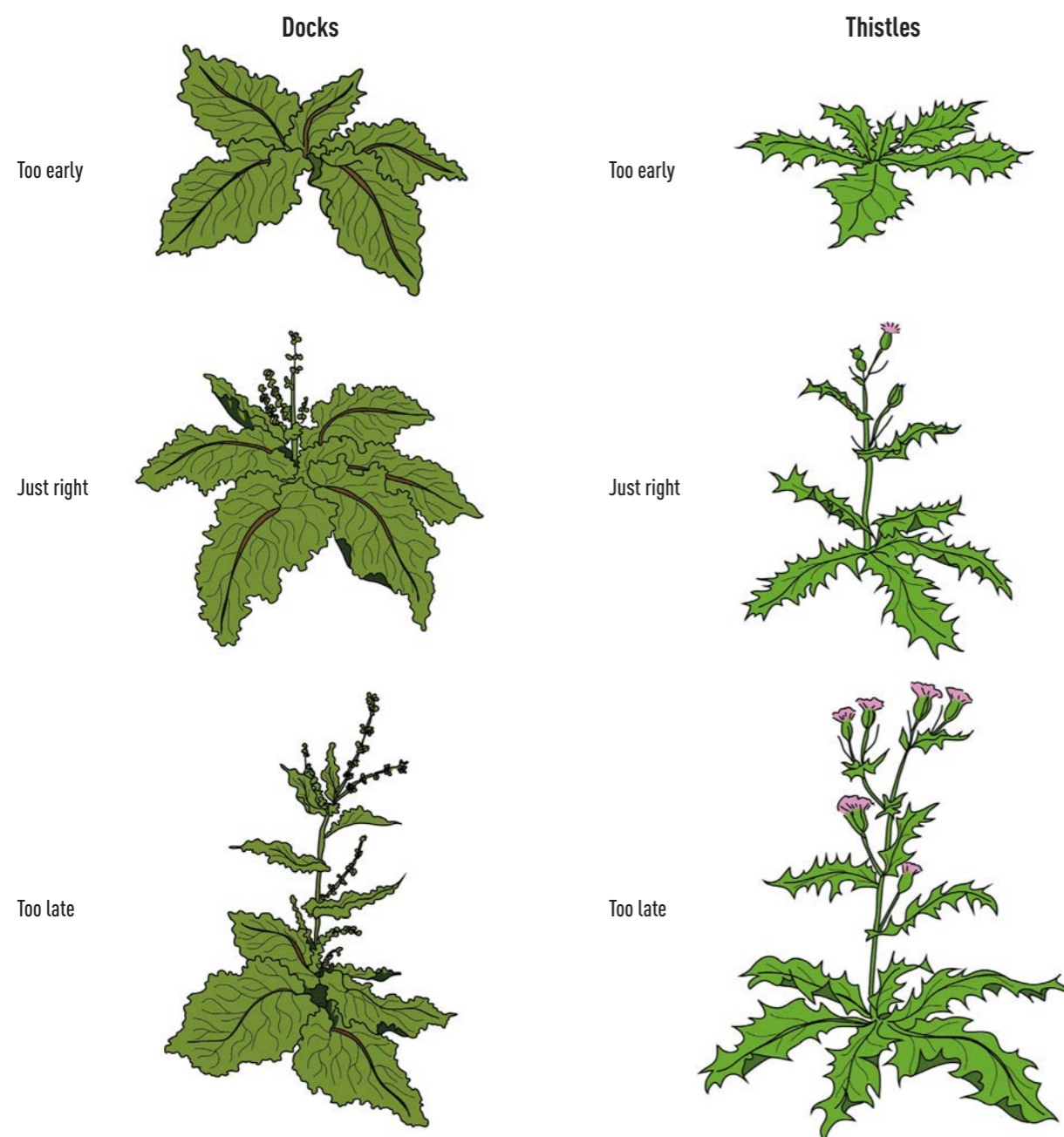
Take care to identify the weeds present in the sward and spray only at their sensitive stage of growth, as shown in table below. Treated poisonous weeds (including Ragwort, Hemlock, Water Dropwort and Bracken) must be removed or allowed to completely degenerate before re-grazing or conserving.

Dominant broad-leaved weed	Application timing and guidance for sward destruction
Docks	The majority of the plants should be at rosette stage and have 15cm of new, healthy growth. Pre-second cut silage is best. Avoid application after several mowing's as plants can go straight to flowering with little leaf growth to absorb Roundup. Where this occurs poor control may result.
Thistles	The majority of the plants should be at rosette stage or when stems reach full height from the start of flowering but before seed set. and have 15cm of new, healthy growth. Pre-second cut silage is best. Spraying whilst in flower will prevent the production of viable seed. Creeping Thistles can emerge over a long period of time, so in a grazing regime topping first to even up re-growth can be beneficial. Use of appropriate rates should give in excess of 95% control one year after treatment.
Ragwort	Treat when first year plants are at the rosette stage with enough leaf to absorb the Roundup. Spray established plants when stems reach full height from the start of flowering but before seed set.
Rushes	Top previous seasons dead foliage in early spring. Spray when re-growth reaches flowering.
Nettles	Spray once plants start to flower but before dieback, usually in June. Cut back mature plants (June/July) and spray re-growth. Hairy leaves can be difficult to wet. Use flat fan nozzles with spray quality on the finer side of medium and keep water volume up at 200-250l/ha.
Bracken	Treat once fronds are fully unfurled, usually in late July/August. Avoid earlier treatment as it may give suppression rather than effective long term control.
Dandelions, Buttercups	Treatment on good leaf growth any time in the period June - September should give good control as these species will already have flowered.

For full instructions consult the product label

Control of Problem weeds in Grassland

Timings for Docks & Thistles:



Summary

- Roundup can be used post-cut, pre-cut of silage/hay or pre-grazing of grass
 - Maximising the growing season
 - Avoiding the 3-6 weeks re-growth period
- Modern Roundup formulations ensure high and consistent performance
 - Maximising uptake of active ingredient
 - Getting right down to the roots of even the most troublesome perennial weeds
- Modern Roundup formulations are rainfast from just 1 hour
 - Giving peace of mind in difficult weather windows
 - Maximising the spraying opportunity
- Follow Roundup Best Practice guidelines for complete long-term control
 - Identify weeds and treat at their most sensitive stage
 - Use the correct dose rate for the product and the weed

Cautions

- Do not spray grass crops that are very heavy, very tall or contain mature seeds as a reduced level of control may occur.
- Where pastures contain poisonous weeds eg. Ragwort, Hemlock, Cowbane and Bracken, use the Post-cut/graze timing for the application of Roundup.
- Poisonous plant species treated with Roundup must be removed before re-grazing or conserving.
- DO NOT apply lime or fertiliser prior to Roundup application.
- DO NOT apply manure or lime for 5 days after Roundup application.
- Broadcast applications of Roundup must be used ONLY on those fields where destruction of grassland is required.
- Grass to grass reseeding is at risk of Frit Fly damage, consider cultural control methods to reduce this risk.