



IRWIN STOCKFEEDS

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BROADLEAF WEED CONTROL

With the passing of Autumn to Winter now is the time to make sure you have your broadleaf weeds under control. There are a number of different chemicals to consider for use, however what suits you may be different to your neighbour depending on what weeds you are targeting and what stage of growth they are.

If capeweed is the main target and it is relatively small, ie smaller than a CD, then *Tigrex / Nugrex* @ 500ml/ha will provide very good results while also being soft on any clovers in the pasture. If stinging nettle or marshmallow are issues, *Tigrex* is again a good option. However, the rate might need to be lifted to 1lt/ha. If spraying a newly resown pasture, make sure there is at least 1 and a half leaves showing on the ryegrass plant before applying a broadleaf chemical.

If the capeweed is more advanced ie. bigger than a CD, it is worth looking at *Amine* or *MCPA*. Rates vary and it is important to always read the label first. However, I recommend a kill rate as you stop the plant from possibly flowering in the spring and causing further problems in the future. *Amine* is normally applied @ 1.5lt/ha while *MCPA* is 0.7 to 1 lt/ha. Both these chemicals can have an effect on clover but will not kill them if applied according to the product label.

When spraying it is important to check your sprayer to make sure all nozzles are working effectively. Also making sure your water is clean and suitable for mixing with chemicals. One problem that can have an effect on the efficacy of your spray is highly alkaline or hard water. The alkaline water can break the chemical molecule which is normally found in a weak acid form. This can render the chemical molecule ineffective. A product like *LI700* can be used to help adjust the water pH before mixing in the chemical.

Hard water can have a high level of calcium which attaches itself to the chemical molecule and make it larger, a bit like attaching 2 tennis balls (calcium) to a Squash Ball (chemical molecule). This can stop the chemical from entering the plant because the molecule is too big for the opening in the leaf surface. A product like *Liase* can be added to the water before the chemical to bind the calcium particles before they attach to the chemical molecule.

Irwin Stockfeeds recommends you always seek advice from your local rural advisor on the best chemical products for controlling broadleaf weed problems.

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