

# Winter weed control in established Lucerne

Weed control of established Lucerne stands is important and should be done yearly during the months of **June and July** and to a lesser degree August.

Trial work on weed control on Lucerne stands has shown dry matter yield increases of 57%.

*Note: My definition of "established Lucerne" is a stand older than 12 months old.*

Most of the chemicals suggested in this download require a minimum stand life of at least 12 months while for others 2 years is the minimum stand life requirement (e.g. Terbutylazine). We have tried to suggest chemicals with the highest active ingredients (a.i.) per litre and strongly recommend that you read all labels before use and seek the help of your local chemical expert before commencing any spraying program.

The chemicals selected are often only a small sample of the range commercially available and us suggesting them doesn't put one above another, however the chemicals suggested are normally easy to obtain and to get a good competitive price on.



## Pre Spray:

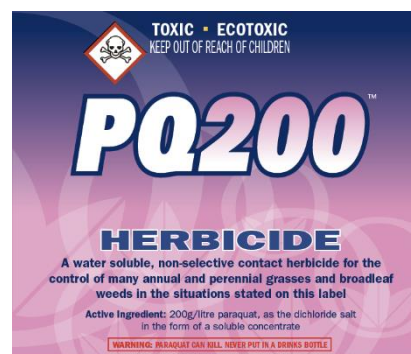
1. Walk the paddocks to inspect the range of weeds present. For help identifying any common weeds please [click here](#) for our [Identifying Pasture Weeds](#) brochure. The most commonly found weeds will be the likes of grass weeds, shepherds purse, storks bill and clovers. For more difficult to control weeds including nodding thistles, woolly mullein and dandelions please [contact us](#) for more information.
2. Ensure Lucerne is dormant then closely graze stands and allow a few days after grazing for weed growth to freshen up before spraying.
3. Do not apply chemicals when frost is still on the ground or the ground is excessively wet.

## Suggested Chemicals:

### Paraquat:

The most commonly used chemical for weed control in established Lucerne is Paraquat. It is used on its own if grass weeds are the only issue or in a mix with other chemicals if there is a wider range of weeds present, which is normally the case.

Paraquat will kill most annual grasses, broadleaf weeds and suppresses ryegrasses and brown off and knock down the other flat weeds present. The addition of a residual chemical to Paraquat will stop them coming back for the spring/ summer/ early autumn.



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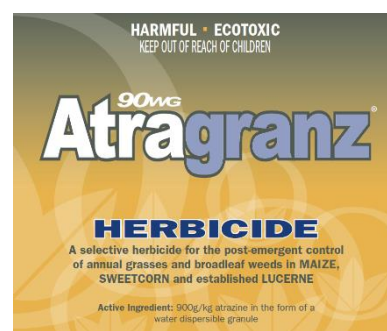
The last count I did there were 5 types of Paraquat on the market. They contain 200 or 250 grams / litre (a.i.). Rate of Paraquat to the hectare when used alone is normally 3 litres per hectare (200 gram/litre a.i.) and 2.4 litres per hectare (250 grams / litre a.i.). When used in a mix with either Atrazine, Simazine or Terbutylazine the rates are 2 - 3 litres per hectare (200 gram/litre a.i.) and 1.6 to 2.4 litres per hectare (250 gram/litre a.i.) + the appropriate rate per hectare of the chemical you are adding it to.

[Click here](#) for more information on PQ200 Paraquat

## Atragraz:

Atragraz is used in addition to Paraquat to control seedling weeds and is a residual chemical. Normally used earlier in the season (i.e. June until mid-July). Once again there are several to select from. The Atrazine products I mention contains 900 grams / kg a.i. and are used at between 800 grams - 1 kg per hectare.

[Click here](#) for more information on Atragraz

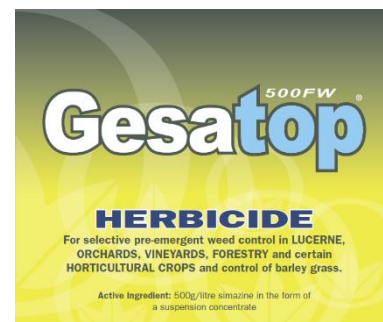


## Simazine:

Like Atrazine, Simazine is a residual chemical used in a mix with Paraquat and it has a similar weed spectrum as Atrazine. You use Simazine for later in the spraying season mid-July until early August.

Orion's Gesatop contains 500 grams/litre a.i and therefore when mixed with Paraquat is used at between 1.5 to 2 litres per hectare.

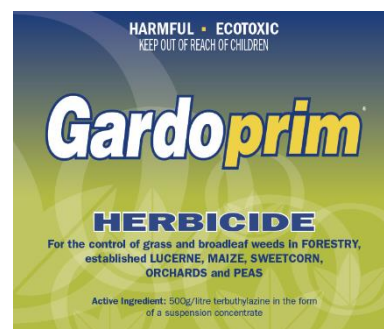
[Click here](#) for more information on Gesatop



## Terbutylazine:

Terbutylazine has a similar weed spectrum to Atrazine and Simazine and could be used at the same time as them. Terbutylazine is also similar to the above chemicals in that it performs best on moist soil types. Once again there is a wide range of Terbutylazine products on the markets many with different strengths of a.i. I have suggested Gardoprim that contains 500 grams per litre a.i. and should be used at between 1.5 and 2 litres per hectare when mixed with Paraquat.

[Click here](#) for more information on Gardoprim



Website Link: Click here to go to the Specialty Seed's [Lucerne](#) website page.



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