AGPRO DIRECT

TECH SHEET:

Fodder Beet

Fodder beet has created interest in the past few years, mainly due to its high yield potential. To achieve these high yields more inputs are required than for other winter forage crops, and attention to detail and timing are crucial.

The key to the successful management of fodder beet is ensuring that no shortcuts are taken. There are three vital steps that will help a fodder beet crop reach its full potential; good soil preparation, accurate sowing, monitoring of weeds and insects, and applying control measures at the correct time.

A soil test should be taken at least six months before planned drilling to identify any pH issues. If a soil test is completed in the autumn, it is possible to increase the soil pH and nutrients to a level that is conducive to successful fodder beet growth. The ideal soil pH for fodder beet is 6.2. Crop performance is also sensitive to potassium, sodium and chloride, and to a lesser extent, phosphate and nitrogen. Most of the fertiliser should be applied at the time of sowing, with some further side-dressing until bulbs start to increase in size. (Your local fertilizer company or merchant is best to advise) from a recent soil test.

A key management issue is the even drilling and establishment of the fodder beet plants. A fine and firm seed bed should be created to ensure that the seeds are placed at a consistent spacing and depth over the whole area. An even establishment is vital in giving the chosen weed control strategy the best chance of being successful. An even spacing is also important to maximise bulb size and yield per hectare, which is why most crops are sown with a precision planter.

Established fodder beet plants are very tolerant of insect attack, but during establishment, insects such as adult grass grub, cut worm, springtails and Nysius can cause irreversible damage to the plant. Frequent crop monitoring will ensure that any insect issues are identified early and able to be controlled before they have a major effect on the crop yield.

The same monitoring is required for weed control. Due to only low chemical inputs tolerated by the crop, any weeds germinating must be sprayed as early as possible to ensure they are controlled and don't affect the yield of the fodder beet. It is recommended you speak to AGPRO staff well before planting to discuss an insect and weed control plan to make sure everything is in place before drilling your fodder beet. Important for us to know as well, is how many years the paddock has been grown in crop. There can be high levels of rhizoctonia/fusarium spp in the soil, which after consecutive years will affect your bulbs and yield.

Once the plants have a full leafy canopy, bulbs start to grow. There are few insects or diseases that affect fodder beet, though crop walking every two to three weeks is still important.

AGPRO HORTICULTURE

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for technical assistance

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SUGGESTED AGPRO SPRAY PROGRAMME

Make your paddock selection as early as possible, noting what weeds are present. We are happy to discuss the correct sprayout option, and to receive pictures from your smartphone, should you have problems identifying the weeds. General rule of thumb is sprayout 8-10 weeks prior to planting.

STRAIGHT AFTER PLANTING PRODUCTS IN RED MUST BE APPLIED TOGETHER:

Product	Application timing	Purpose	Rate/ha	Comments
AGPRO Glyphosate	After seeding	Clean-up	1-1.5L/ha	Controls small seedling weed
AGPRO Clozone	With Glyphosate	Residual/knockdown	150-200ml/ha	Brownout/added spectrum
AGPRO Ethofumesate	With the above	Residual broadleaf/grass	2L/ha	Prevents early weed strike

SUGGESTED PROGRAMME POST CROP EMERGENCE AT BETWEEN 3-5 LEAF STAGE OF CROP:

Product	Application timing	Purpose	Rate/ha	Comments
AGPRO Rydazin	Post emerg	Range of broadleaf weed	2L/ha	Optional/broadleaf weeds
AGPRO Metimitron	Post emerg	Knockdown and residual	5L/ha	Main spring weeds
AGPRO Hambeet	Post emerg	Specific beet herbicide broadleaf weed	600ml-1.5L/ha	Best in combination
AGPRO Fodderbeet Smooth	Post emerg	Specific quad mix, knockdown and residual	3.5-4L/ha	

OTHER CHEMICAL OPTIONS:

BROADLEAF WEEDS:

Product	Application timing	Purpose	Rate/ha	Comments
AGPRO Cloralid	Post emerg	Thistles, clover, plantain, yarrow	500ml-1L/ha	Must be applied with Crop Oil

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