

# USING HERBICIDES SAFELY

- ? Do you need to use a pesticide at all? Are any alternative methods such as cutting, pulling, grazing or hoeing suitable?
- ✓ If the weed burden does require pesticide application, take a moment to review the active ingredients of a couple of alternative products to explore your options.
- ✓ Getting soil fertility and drainage right plus avoiding overgrazing can alleviate weed problems and stop them reoccurring.
- ✓ As many paddock products are for professional use only, please make sure you hold the appropriate certificates or seek a professional to treat the land for you.
- ✓ Make sure sprayers are serviced and calibrated before use - this will ensure the right amount of product is used.
- ✓ Only make up the volume of product required for the area to be treated.
- ✓ Target weeds at the right size - young and actively growing weeds are best.
- ✓ Always wear suitable protective clothing when handling and measuring the concentrate and whilst spraying - gloves, coveralls and rubber boots are essential and never measure, dilute or rinse pesticides over a sink or drain.
- ✗ Don't spray on a windy day. Not only will you be wasting money on product, it's unlikely to kill the intended weeds and could end up in the nearest river instead.
- ✗ Don't spray before rain, always check the weather forecast. Rain will wash the pesticide off weeds and carry it straight into the nearest ditch or river.
- ✗ GrazonPro - must not be sprayed within a meter of the top of the bank of a flowing or static water body.
- ✓ Pas-Tor - must have a 5 meter buffer area (or 1 meter after a satisfactory LERAP assessment) left unsprayed next to a flowing or static water body, or 1 meter buffer strip to be left unsprayed near dry ditches.
- ✓ When spraying is finished, clean out the tank, spray lines and nozzles and product containers making sure the dirty water is disposed of on a previously under-dosed patch of the same field or another area suitable for the product and not down the drain.

## YOUR LOCAL CATCHMENT ADVISORS



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# PADDOCK HERBICIDES AND KEEPING DRINKING WATER SAFE



# USE OF Paddock HERBICIDES

## AND KEEPING DRINKING WATER SAFE

Buttercups, thistles, docks and nettles can be the bane of many a pristine-paddock during the spring and summer.

For many horse and yard owners, spraying is the easiest way to get rid of fields full of weeds. However, if not used as directed on the label, some commonly used herbicides for paddock and garden maintenance can find their way into rivers thus affecting raw water quality.



### HERBICIDES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Clopyralid, one of the active ingredients in GrazonPro and Pas-Tor provides effective control of thistles, however if it gets into drinking water protected areas is difficult to remove by water companies like us, who provide clean wholesome drinking water.

To find out if you're in a drinking water protected area contact your local advisor whose details are on the reverse of this leaflet.

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### UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

When fields and paddocks are sprayed in the spring, any excess herbicide can run off the fields and into the ditches, rivers, streams and eventually into reservoirs.

Unintended herbicide in the environment is never a good thing, but it can be a particular problem if it happens in an area important for drinking water abstraction.



BUTTERCUP



DOCK LEAF



THISTLE



NETTLE

### TREATING WATER TO KEEP IT SAFE

Each of the water sources used for public drinking water are mapped so we know where the water comes from. 'Raw' untreated water is taken directly from boreholes, rivers and reservoirs in these areas before it's treated and enters into the water supply network.

We have found higher levels of Clopyralid in the water from areas where there are grazing paddocks nearby.

Ideally we don't want to find it in the water at all. More intensive treatment is needed to remove the chemical from the water before it can be used - more treatment and dilution means less water available to meet demand and higher costs - not good news for our customers.

### HELPING PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

We can all play a part in helping to protect our drinking water and the environment. The best way is to be careful about where and when herbicides are sprayed. There are a few simple steps that can be taken to ensure that the drinking water resource is looked after as well as grazing and pasture land.

### TIPS FOR USING HERBICIDES SAFELY