

Pasture Topping

Controlling Annual Grasses in Pastures

About

Annual grasses including annual ryegrass, brome grass, barley grass and silver grass are major components of annual pastures in cereal/pasture rotation.

Grass seed control with Glyphosate products such as **Ken-Up Dry 680**, **Ken-Up Gold 500**, **Ken-Up 450 CT** or **Paraken 250** will improve the grazing value of pasture and reduce the weed seed burden for next year's crop.

Grazing value is increased, as proteins in the plant are retained in the standing plant tissue rather than lost to the seed head. In addition, there will be a reduction in vegetable matter in wool samples as the grass seed numbers are reduced and seed awns are softer. With the onset of resistant grasses, pasture topping achieves valuable grass seed reduction for next year's crops.



Weed control:

Weed control for the season begins with grazing management in winter. It is important that grazing strategies are developed for the later winter, early spring flush. Seed set control in grass pastures will be more reliable if grazing is managed to achieve even head emergence of the target grasses. Even head emergence is achieved by grazing the paddock heavily up to 2-3 weeks prior to spraying, and then removing stock to allow the grasses to go to head.

The decision to use Glyphosate or **Paraken 250** should depend upon the paddock and the weed spectrum. Glyphosate is a translocated herbicide that moves within the plant and should be applied earlier than paraquat.

Best use tips:

Glyphosate such as **Ken-Up Dry 680** should be applied between head emergence and the milky dough stage of weed's development for barley grass, brome grass and silver grass and at flowering for annual ryegrass.

Glyphosate will also be effective in reducing the seed set of flowering capeweed. For example **Ken-Up DRY 680** should be applied at a rate between 160g/ha and 240g/ha, depending on the weed species and population. When the grass population is dense, a low rate will not give an acceptable result.

Paraken 250 should be applied when the last heads have emerged and there are signs of the grass "haying off". Barley grass is usually the first to flower in a mixed pasture, then silver grass followed by brome grass and annual ryegrass. Because the head emergence of barley grass is generally more staggered, this grass requires more attention to preparation before spraying with **Paraken 250**.

Paraken 250 should be applied at 400mL/ha plus wetter. For maximum retention of protein in standing dry feed, hay freezing at a rate of

800mL should be applied prior to commencement of haying off. **Paraken 250** will also reduce the erodium (corkscrew, geranium) population in the pasture.





Annual Ryegrass Toxicity:

Annual Ryegrass Toxicity (ARGT) can be managed with the aid of **Paraken 250** (WA only). Using **Paraken 250** is part of an overall management strategy. The aim of using **Paraken 250** is to prevent the ryegrass seed heads from becoming toxic. This is achieved by tightly grazing pastures prior to head emergence, followed by removing stock from the pasture to allow even head emergence prior to spraying.

Spray **Paraken 250** within 10 days of the first ryegrass seed head emergence and graze tightly. Spray through fences to ensure toxic ryegrass seeds are not available to be eaten by stock.

Consult your vet for further details on ARGT management strategies.

Water Volume and Application:

With dense canopies where the pasture has closed over, higher water volumes are needed to achieve physical coverage of the grass seed heads. In this situation use 50-100L / ha of water with either 110015 or 11002 spraying system (or equivalent) nozzles. Keep speeds below 20kph.

To assist with even control and application when spray topping, the boom spray height needs to be set to achieve a double overlap pattern at the base of the seed head. Under hot conditions (25°C+) the addition of spraying oil 2% total mix, will reduce the evaporation and improve the level of control.

NOTES

- Glyphosate such as **Ken-Up Dry 680** or **Ken-Up Gold 500** is the preferred option where mixed infestations of grasses occur, or barley grass is the target grass.
- **Paraken 250** will avoid damaging the clover set, as the clover seed will be set and viable at the correct time of application.
- When applying **Paraken 250** wait until most of the small lower tillers have their seed heads emerged before spraying.
- When applying **Paraken 250** to barley grass, wait until the top 50% of the oldest seed heads are haying off.
- Add 1-2% spraying oil to reduce evaporation under warm conditions (25°C+)
- Where Redlegged Earthmite (RLEM) are a problem, add Dimethoate 400 @ 75mL/ha to the Glyphosate to reduce the potential RLEM problem in the crop next year.
- Observe safety directions when pasture topping; **Paraken 250** (paraquat) is a schedule 7 poison.
- Do not graze for 1 day after pasture topping.

Guaranteed to perform:

Our products are guaranteed to perform when used as directed or your product is replaced.

Kenso Agcare produces and distributes a wide range of quality crop protection products for use in Australian farming systems.

