



Silver grass (*Vulpia* sp, Rats' Tail Fescue) is a major weed problem in pastures and crops on the Tablelands and Slopes areas throughout New South Wales.

When Silver grass is in thick swards it is a very competitive weed and can choke out newly sown pastures, resulting in a pasture establishment failure.

In established pastures Silver grass can compete with established pasture plants reducing dry matter production. Seed heads can also be a problem sulting in wool contamination as well as skin and eye injury to livestock. In some paddocks the infestation of Silver grass can be so bad that pastures are unsuitable for making hay in the spring.

However, trials carried out by Monsanto Australia's Product Development team and commercial demonstrations in the field have determined a safe strategy to achieve control of Silver grass prior to sowing a new pasture.

During the spring before renovation, paddocks with a Silver grass problem (or other weed problems) should be sprayed with ROUNDUP® CT broadacre herbicide to reduce seed carry over into the following autumn.

Rates of ROUNDUP CT used will vary from a pasture topping rate of 240 - 360mls/Ha to a higher rate of 800mls - 1.6L/Ha. The rate used will depend on the types of weeds present and their stage of growth.

During the spring and summer livestock can graze the sprayed out weeds and pastures. Because ROUNDUP CT seems to sweeten the feed, the stock can better utilize the dry matter reducing excess dry trash to be sown into the following autumn. However, sensible grazing is recommended to avoid erosion problems.

After a good germination of weeds in the autumn, spray with ROUNDUP CT to control all the weeds prior to sowing the pasture. Depending on the stage of growth of the silver grass and method of sowing (full disturbance, direct drill or surface seeding) ROUNDUP CT should be applied at 800mls - 2.0L/Ha.

The addition of WETTER TX surfactant (both in the autumn and Spring) improves the performance of ROUNDUP CT on Silver grass. Field trials have shown that control of Silver grass can be increased by up to 30% by the addition of WETTER TX.

By spraying weeds with ROUNDUP CT in the spring and again in the autumn prior to sowing the pasture, the impact of Silver grass competition on the establishing pasture is minimised and the new pasture can have a weed-free start.

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