

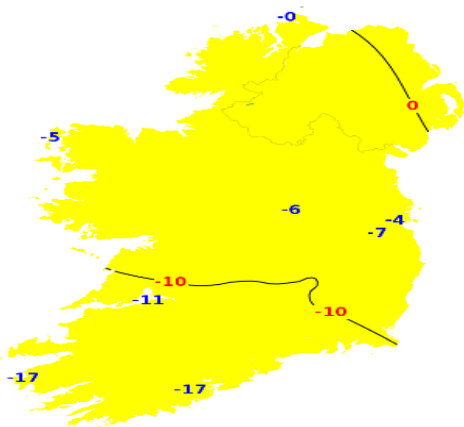


## PLANTING

Spring 2018 will live long in the memory for all the wrong reasons as land has had little or no chance to dry out to allow field work. Little progress has been made in most areas with planting of maincrop now being delayed by the poor weather in April. Many growers are commenting that land is ploughing up very wet especially on heavier soils. Figure 1 below shows that most soils with the exception of the north west have been wetter than normal.

Figure 1.

Moderately Drained Soil Moisture Deficit  
Difference from Normal  
Tue 24th Apr



Where this is the case consider moving off to drier land and come back to the wet areas at a later date. It is now inevitable that much of the maincrop is going to be planted in the second half of May which can cause later harvesting of crops in the autumn. Consider planting late maturing varieties e.g. Pinks & Markies first and the earlier maturing varieties after that. Where contracts are in place for early harvest e.g. Rooster or Rosetta these should be the **given** priority. When planting after mid-May consider reducing the overall amount of nitrogen to the crop, as a

general rule of thumb reduce rates by about 5% per week. This will help to ensure that crops mature earlier and achieve the desired dry matters. On very late planted crops incorporate all fertiliser into the seedbed and avoid top dressing with nitrogen if at all possible. Avoid the temptation to "drive" crops on with extra nitrogen as this will only drive down dry matters, delay maturity and make tops more difficult to burn down. conditions.

## WEED CONTROL

The one advantage that the recent weather will provide for growers is that soils should be moist which will help weed control. Very dry beds reduce the efficacy of all the residual herbicides with only the contact herbicides really working in dry conditions.

Where weed control is carried out in conditions where soils are damp Table 1 below shows popular options for pre-emergence weed control in maincrop potatoes.

For those crops emerging in June and potentially dry conditions, consider a two pronged strategy, using contact based herbicides pre-emergence such as Diquat or Carfentrazone and follow this up with a post emergence application of metribuzin (Sencorex/Shotput/Buzzin) however you will need to check labels for varietal suitability. Titus can be mixed post emergence with metribuzin to improve the control of cleavers, charlock and chickweed. Titus however is not recommended on seed crops as it may cause mottling of the leaves that can be

similar in appearance to virus damage.

Grass weeds, wild oats and volunteer cereals can be controlled post emergence with graminicides such as Falcon/ Claw, Fusilade Max, Stratus ultra. Check each label for rates and the grass weeds controlled

**Table 1: Pre-emergence herbicide options 2018**

Product	Comment
Diquat 200g/L (Retro, Quad, etc.) 2.0 L/ha +Agrol	Standard recommendation to be added to residual herbicides
Spotlight Plus 0.33L/ha	Alternative to diquat
Metribuzin (Sencorex) 0.5 kg <b>Plus</b> Diquat as above	Good on fat hen, black bindweed, redshank, pale persicaria, Poor on cleavers
Linuron (Afalon/Daltura) 1.0-2.0 l/ha* <b>Plus</b> Diquat as above	Good on black bindweed, fat hen, pansy. Poor on fumitory, cleavers, knot grass.
Metribuzin (Sencorex) 0.5 kg <b>Plus</b> Defy 4L/ha <b>Plus</b> Diquat as above	Defy adds better control of cleavers and AMG. Useful nightshade control
Linuron 1.0-1.5 L/ha* <b>Plus</b> Defy 3.0-4.0 L/ha <b>Plus</b> Diquat as above (don't include a non-ionic wetter)	Useful where bindweed is a problem, Defy also adds better control of cleavers and knot grass
*Lingo 2.0L/ha <b>Plus</b> Metribuzin (Sencorex) 0.5 kg Where weeds are emerged add Spotlight 0.33l/ha	Good all around weed control. Do not apply to emerging crop as bleaching will occur. Crops will grow away from this but in some cases will linger in the growing point.
Stomp Aqua/Most Micro <b>Plus</b> Metribuzin (Sencorex) 0.5 kg <b>Plus</b> Diquat as above	Very useful where black nightshade likely to be a problem. Poor on cleavers
Stallion 2.5-3.0L/Ha <b>Plus</b> Metribuzin (Sencorex) 0.5 kg <b>Plus</b> Diquat as above	Good all round mix. Stallion must be applied at least 7 days before emergence to avoid bleaching etc.

**\*Note; All products containing Linuron must be used up by June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018**

Post emergence options are limited so aim to get adequate control before the crop emerges.

**Table 2; Post-emergence broad leaf weed control**

Timing	Product	Comment
Post emerge	Titus 25g/ha + Sencorex 0.35 kg/ha + Non Ionic Wetter 0.1% Follow in 10 days with Titus 25g/ha + Non Ionic Wetter 0.1%	Use where cleavers a known problem. Second application will take late germinating cleavers. Check varietal restrictions
Post Emerge	Titus 50kg/ha + Non Ionic Wetter 0.1%	Usually a follow up treatment when where targeting cleavers also very useful control of scutch. Check varietal restrictions.

In order to get the best performance from your choice of products it is important to know what weeds that need to be controlled in each field Table 3 overleaf shows the susceptibility of common weeds to each product. As a result the likely weeds should influence product choice, avoid sticking to a set programme across all fields as you are then more likely to have weed issues later on.

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**Table 3; Weed Susceptibility Table for Potatoes 2017**

<b>Common Weed Name</b>	<b>Sencorex Pre-em</b>	<b>Sencorex Post-em</b>	<b>Stomp Aqua Pre-em</b>	<b>Linuron Pre-em</b>	<b>Defy Pre-em</b>	<b>Lingo Pre-em</b>	<b>Stallion Pre-emerg</b>	<b>Diquat Pre-em</b>	<b>Spotlight Pre-em</b>	<b>Titus Post-em</b>
Annual meadow-grass	S	S	S	MR	S	MS		S		MS
Annual nettle	S	S				MS			S	S
Black bindweed				R		MS		S	S	
Black nightshade	R	MS		R	S		S	S	S	MS
Black bindweed	MS	S	MS	S				S	S	MS
Black Grass	S	MS	S	MR			MR	S		
Charlock	S	S	S	S		MR		S	S	S
Chickweed	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S
Cleavers	R	R	MS	MR	S	S	MS	S	S	S
Corn marigold		MS	S	S				S		
Corn mint				R				S		
Cranesbill					MS			S	MS	
Creeping thistle				R				S		
Red dead nettle	S	S	S	S	S		S	S	S	S
Fat hen	S	S	S	S		MS	S	S	S	MR
Fool's parsley						S				
Field penny cress	S	S		S		S		S		MS
Fumitory	S	S	MS	R		MR		S	MS	S
Groundsel	S	S	S	S		MS		S	S	MS
Hempnettle	S	S	S	S		MR		S	S	S
Knotgrass	MS	MS	S	MR		MS	S	S	S	MS
Mayweed	S	S	S	S		MR	MS	S	MS	S
Mustard white										S
Oilseed rape (Vol)	S	S	S	R	S	MR		MS	S	S
Orache	S	S	S	S	MS	MS		S	S	MS
Pale persicaria	S	S	S	S	MS	MS		S	S	MS
Pansy, field	S	MS	S	S	MS	MR	S	S	MS	
Poppy common	S	S	S	S		MR		S	MS	
Redshank	S	S	S	S	S	MS	MS	S	S	S
Rough meadow grass			MS	R						
Rye grass perennial	S	S					MR			
Scutch	R	R		R						MS
Small nettle			S	S				S		
Shepherd's purse	S	S	MS	S		S		S	S	
Sheeps sorrel	S	S								
Sowthistle	MS	MS	MS	S		MS		S	MS	
Speedwell	S	S	S	S	S	MS	S	S	S	
Wild oats				R	MS		MR	S		MS