

# A new herbicide for the selective and residual control of nassella tussock and Chilean needlegrass

## What is Taskforce® herbicide?

- > It contains the active ingredient flupropanate.
- > This active ingredient has been registered in Australia since 1972.
- > It was registered for use in New Zealand in August 2011 - ACVM No P8355.
- > It is registered for ground use only at the moment.
- > It can be applied using a knapsack, hand gun or boom.
- > Taskforce® is washed into the soil by rain and then absorbed by the roots.
- > Taskforce® binds to the clay component of soils and will not leach even on very steep slopes.
- > It is slow acting and selective.
- > The residual action of the product kills seedlings as they emerge and may last for up to 5 years after application.

For specialist advice call Bill Dobbie on +61 408 404 505 or email [bill@taskforceherbicide.com](mailto:bill@taskforceherbicide.com)



## Taskforce® Herbicide

### Water soluble herbicide

**Active Ingredient:** Contains 745g/L flupropanate as the sodium salt in the form of a water soluble concentrate.

Registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1997 No P8355. Approved pursuant to the HSNO Act 1996 Code HSR 100390. ACVM Approval No P8355.

**For selective control of Chilean needlegrass and nassella tussock in pasture and waste areas.**

**Read label before mixing or applying.**

**NET CONTENTS: 20L**

Manufactured by Vee Dri (Australia) Pty. Ltd  
[www.taskforceherbicide.com](http://www.taskforceherbicide.com)

Specialist advice: Bill Dobbie 0061 408 404 505 / [bill@taskforceherbicide.com](mailto:bill@taskforceherbicide.com)

Distributed by: PGG Wrightson Ltd, 57 Waterloo Road, Hornby, Christchurch. Ph 0800 10 22 76

Application Rates			
Weed	Knapsack	Hand Gun	Boom
Nassella Tussock	20ml per 10L of water	200ml per 100L of water	2L per hectare
Chilean Needlegrass	30ml per 10L of water	300ml per 100L of water	3L per hectare

Always Refer to Label for Full Details

### Important

**Never apply Taskforce® at less than label rate to mature nassella tussock or Chilean needlegrass. Sub lethal doses may encourage resistance. The period of residual control will be reduced as well.**

Taskforce® is very slow acting and the control of nassella tussock and/or Chilean needlegrass will take 6-9 months depending on weather conditions and senescence of plant foliage. It can take three months before any effect is obvious.

The length of residual control depends on soil type and rainfall.

Taskforce® herbicide and the diluted spray mix has no expiry date. It is a very stable chemical.

Before spraying, it is recommended to graze the area to be treated to reduce the cover of desirable species. The water quality for the spray is not critical, but avoid silty water.

Taskforce® works best by itself, but it is physically compatible with all herbicides, except the amine salt of 2-4D. Mixing Taskforce® with other herbicides will reduce the effectiveness of the product.

Refer [www.taskforceherbicide.com](http://www.taskforceherbicide.com)

## Some uses for Taskforce® herbicide

Taskforce® selectively kills nassella tussock and Chilean needlegrass in grass/legume based pastures and provides a long period of residual control. It is slow acting and can take up to three months before the first signs of plant death are obvious. Taskforce® can be used at any time, particularly for spot spraying, but remember that it is slow acting and needs to be used before the end of July to ensure the weeds are stopped from seeding.

### Removal of nassella tussock from lightly infested blocks

Spot spray nassella tussock using label rate at any time, but preferably by the end of July. After July it is advisable to add glyphosate to ensure no seed set occurs. Glyphosate is not selective. Manage block carefully following spraying. After 14 day withholding period, aim to lightly graze block to retain 1,500-2,000kg of dry matter per hectare.

### Blocks with a severe infestation of nassella tussock and/or Chilean needlegrass

Two options exist - selective removal of the weeds or a complete pasture renovation. The decision often comes down to the abundance of desirable pasture species still left in the paddock.

#### > For selective removal

Heavily graze the block and then boom spray with the label rate before the end of July. Carefully manage the block to encourage desirable species using strategic grazing, fertiliser, etc. Observe the withholding period. Control other weeds as necessary. It is critically important to carefully manage treated areas to maintain pasture cover and encourage existing desirable pasture species to spread when using Taskforce® to selectively remove the nassella tussock and Chilean needlegrass.

#### > For pasture renovation

Either Boom spray Taskforce® herbicide at label rate by the end of July

Or Boom spray Taskforce® herbicide at label rate with 300-400ml of glyphosate per hectare to reduce the seed set of annual grasses in early October. Exact timing is dependent on other grass weeds.

Then In autumn, sow in new pasture or move into a cropping phase as this helps other weed control. The plant back period is 100ml of leaching rain.

### Spraying Chilean needlegrass when seed heads begin to emerge

Spot spray Chilean needlegrass patches using label rate as soon as Chilean needlegrass seed heads emerge and they are easily identified amongst other pasture species. Glyphosate must be added to the spray mix to get knock down and stop plants seeding. Adding glyphosate to the spray mix will reduce the long term kill of Taskforce® but it is essential at this time of the year to stop plants seeding. Refer to [www.taskforceherbicide.com](http://www.taskforceherbicide.com)



Nassella tussock plant 5 months after being sprayed with Taskforce® herbicide near Blenheim.

(Note the surrounding pasture remains unaffected)



Successful application of flupropanate on nassella tussock in Victoria, Australia.

Charles Grech - DPI Victoria

## Application comments

If using Taskforce® alone, always decontaminate spraying equipment to remove any glyphosate residues as this reduces selectivity.

If applying using a boom, use water volumes of 150 - 300L per hectare.

Spraying equipment needs to be accurately calibrated as an increase in rate reduces selectivity. For spot spraying, the label rate is 200ml of Taskforce® mixed in 100L of water applied at the rate of 1,000L per hectare. Please calibrate your spot gun!

If spot spraying, always use a marker dye to ensure full coverage and to avoid applying the product to the same plant more than once.

No surfactant is required. Adding a surfactant may damage desirable species.

Apply to full coverage of foliage.

Taskforce® can be applied at any time of year, but because it is slow acting, to stop seed head production in both weed species, apply before the end of July. If applying after the end of July, glyphosate must be added to the spray mix to stop seed head production. Refer to Taskforce® label.

Taskforce® can be used in light rain - it has no rainfast period. Avoid spraying if very heavy rainfall causing runoff is predicted. Taskforce® may be washed away reducing efficacy if runoff occurs immediately after application.

Taskforce® does not affect established trees and can be sprayed around or over them with no ill effects.

Taskforce® has no effect on established lucerne. Be cautious with lucerne less than a year old.

Taskforce® is a rate selective herbicide and if applied well in excess of label rates the degree of selectivity will reduce.

Taskforce® is a very safe herbicide with a long history of use in Australia.

Always observe the withholding period.

Remember Taskforce® is just the first element in the control of nassella tussock and Chilean needlegrass - good grazing management after spraying is the key to long term control. You may have to change stocking rates if you are used to overgrazing - you need to get good competitive pasture grasses established and firing to regain control. No weed likes competition!