

## Grazing after Azulox spraying bracken Extracts from Nibblers online discussion group

Hello all nibblers. Can anyone advise me about grazing when bracken is being sprayed with Azulox. We are currently grazing a 35Ha. heathland site with 4 Hereford crosses and anticipate spraying across 50% of the site. We contract the spraying out and as such I have not seen any technical sheets for this chemical although some people have recommended removal of the stock for two weeks. If anyone has more experience, I would be very grateful to hear your thoughts.

Thanks in advance,  
mark.

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Hi Mark,

There is a specific aftercare instruction on the Asulox product label regarding stock exclusions; I quote -

**"DO NOT cut the bracken or admit stock for at least 14 days after spraying and preferably leave it undisturbed until late autumn.** This is to allow adequate translocation of Asulox within the bracken plant."

Both the product label and the Hazard Safety Data Sheet are available on the Bayer Crop Science website.

Whilst on the subject of bracken I have heard a lot of recommendations recently about carrying out bracken spraying works other than as described on the product label. Just a quick reminder to all concerned that if you choose to do this it is very much at your own risk – the regs say you should stick to the label recommendations unless you have gone through the formalities of an off-label usage application; if anything goes wrong, if someone complains or if your work is challenged in any way you could end up with a real problem. (here endeth the lesson!!)

Hope this is useful.  
Regards

Steve Clarke  
Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage Programme manager  
English Nature

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The necessary exclusion period for grazing livestock following treatment with Asulox (asulam), or any other herbicide, should be clearly shown on the product label - so the contractor doing the spraying should ensure that you are fully aware of the necessary requirements. Anyway, having said that, I can tell you that stock should be excluded from the treated area for "at least 14 days" and until foliage of poisonous weeds such as ragwort has died and become unpalatable. This is the same requirement as that applied to several other herbicides, even though asulam actually has a relatively low toxicity to mammals.

The Asulox product label and further safety data can be obtained from the Bayer CropScience website at [www.bayercropscience.co.uk](http://www.bayercropscience.co.uk).

I hope that this helps.  
Chris Britt  
ADAS

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I don't know what happens in practice Mark but I couldn't recommend anything less than the prescribed withdrawal period on the product label. Your contractor will be able to tell you what this is. Bracken is lethal to cattle if they eat it only normally they won't eat it because it tastes bad, This aversion may not apply to fronds that are wilted and dying resulting in a much higher risk of poisoning. If you don't want to remove the 4 beats you could try partitioning the site with electric fence.

best wishes  
Bill

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Chris's reply prompts me to mention that the stock exclusion periods for 26 of the commonly used herbicides on nature conservation sites is given in Table 4 of the Herbicide Handbook, 2003 - (Chris was lead contractor drafting the material that went into the Handbook).

Table 3 provides a quick reference guide to what herbicides can be used in what situations on which weeds.

More detail about the attributes of each herbicide is provided in the herbicide profile pages 4/51 to 4/108.

The Handbook can be viewed/downloaded from English Nature website:  
[www.english-nature.org.uk](http://www.english-nature.org.uk),

Always check the product label for any updates.

John  
John Bacon, Senior Land Manager, Land Management Unit, English Nature, Box  
25, Church Stretton, Shropshire. SY6 7WL. Tel/fax: 01694 723101. E-mail:

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