



# Effective control of crowsfoot grass

Most banana growers will agree that crowsfoot grass is a common weed that can be extremely hard to control. Basta® controls it very effectively provided that the whole plant is thoroughly wetted and only the higher rates are used on bigger plants.

Crowsfoot grass (*Eleusine indica*) is an annual grass with fibrous roots and numerous tough stems that form a low open tussock. Its very strong root system makes it difficult to control, especially as it gets older. Mature, seeding plants are more hardened and don't allow penetration of the herbicide active ingredient as easily as young actively growing plants.

There is a significant risk of regrowth, particularly when spraying mature seeding crowsfoot grass in banana plantations.

That's why you can't afford to take 'shortcuts' with Basta spray application.

## KEYS TO SUCCESS

### THOROUGH COVERAGE OF THE ENTIRE PLANT

- Spray onto dry leaves.
- Wet all the leaves of the whole plant.
- Use nozzles delivering larger droplets and higher volumes.

### HIGH LABEL RATES AND SPRAY VOLUMES

- Use 4–5 L/ha, especially on mature plants.
- Use high spray volumes: typically 300–500 L/ha.

### MAXIMUM DRYING TIME

- Use big droplets with no spray adjuvants.
- Make sure there will be high humidity after spraying (the first 30–45 minutes after application are critical).
- Avoid drying winds.



Poor result on mature crowsfoot grass through poor spray coverage and a low rate.



Excellent control of mature crowsfoot grass 16 days after thorough spraying with Basta at 4 L/ha.

# Basta on crowfoot grass in bananas

<b>Active ingredient</b>	200 g/L glufosinate-ammonium
<b>Formulation</b>	Soluble concentrate with a high loading of a highly effective surfactant.
<b>Herbicide MOA Group</b>	Group N
<b>Rainfastness</b>	6 hours without rain following application.
<b>Adjuvants</b>	Adding ammonium sulphate (Liaise®) may aid weed control. DO NOT use any other adjuvants.

## SELECTING RATES

Select a rate per ha NOT a dilution rate (e.g. mL/100 L rate).

DO NOT select a handgun rate (e.g. 500 mL/100 L) for application through a boom sprayer.

Only apply Basta through boom spray application at the appropriate L/ha mixture rate.

Calibrate spray equipment to apply the correct rate of Basta. Seek advice from your Basta agents if you're unsure.

### Product rates

Crowsfoot grass requires a Basta rate of 3–5 L/ha, especially when it is mature and growing slowly as it comes out of winter. Rates can be adjusted lower for immature plants. The best management solution is to get in early on all grasses.

### Water rates

Keep application volumes high, with sufficient water to cover the whole of the plant. Typically this will require 300–500 L/ha in bananas.

## APPLICATION TIPS

**Use the right pattern nozzles to spray every leaf on the whole plant.** Use nozzles delivering larger droplets and higher water volumes. Direct the spray pattern so it completely covers weed plants hiding behind banana stools as you pass. Adjust the spray nozzles to allow for the banana row shoulder and follower height.

**DO NOT spray 'through' the plant** – droplets must land on all the weed surfaces. Adjust the spray pressures down if necessary.

**Consider using spray dye to check spray coverage on the weeds.**

**DO NOT spray wet leaves.** The high surfactant load in the Basta formulation means droplets run off wet surfaces too easily. Do not spray until dew has dried off if spraying in the morning.

**Make sure the applied spray stays moist on the plant for as long as possible** to allow for maximum uptake. Use high volumes (big nozzles, big droplets, low pressure) because bigger droplets take longer to dry. Make sure there will be high humidity but no rain or irrigation in the first few hours after spraying. Avoid drying winds, which will reduce drying time.



Bayer CropScience Pty Ltd  
ABN 87 000 226 022  
Level 1, 8 Redfern Road, Hawthorn East, Vic 3123  
Technical enquiries: 1800 804 479  
enquiries.australia@bayer.com  
Ph 03 9248 6888 Fax 03 9248 6800

[crop.bayer.com.au](http://crop.bayer.com.au)

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