



MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Recommendation Sheet

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Isoxaflutole (Merlin), a new pre-emergence herbicide for the control of *Panicum maximum* (fataque)

Panicum maximum (fataque) is a tough grass to control and occurs commonly in regions where annual rainfall does not exceed 2500 mm. Until now, none of the current pre-emergence herbicide treatments has been very effective in the control of this problem weed.

The new herbicide isoxaflutole, commercialized under the trade name **Merlin**, is now recommended for use in ratoon cane where *P. maximum* is a major problem.

Merlin is a pigment inhibitor (i.e. it inhibits chlorophyll production), formulated as a 75% water-dispersible granule (WG).



Panicum maximum, a problem weed in the subhumid and humid environments

Trials have shown that **Merlin**:

- is effective against *P. maximum*, as well as some grasses and broad-leaved weeds
- provides a broader spectrum of control when tank-mixed with tebuthiuron, e.g. Tebusan, with a residual activity that lasts for at least 12-14 weeks.

Recommendation

- **Merlin** is recommended **only** in pre-emergence of ratoon cane (stubble-shaved) and weeds, as it may have a phytotoxic effect if applied in post-emergence of cane.

Herbicides	Recommended rates	
	per ha	per arp
Merlin	0.15 – 0.2 kg	0.06 – 0.08 kg
+	+	+
Tebusan	2.5 L	1 L

- Higher rates of **Merlin** should only be used where infestation of *P. maximum* is expected to be very high.

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