Crowsfoot grass is a common and persistent problem in banana plantations. Its very strong, fibrous root system makes it difficult to control – especially as it gets older.

Mature, seeding tussocks are hardened and don’t allow penetration of the herbicide active as easily as young, actively growing plants.

That creates a significant risk of regrowth, and means you can’t afford to take shortcuts with Basta application.

For more information on Basta, visit crop-solutions.basf.com.au or call 1800 558 399
Keys to **successful spraying**

**MAXIMISE SPRAY DRYING TIME**
The longer Basta droplets stay moist on the leaf surface, the better the uptake and control.

- Use nozzles delivering larger droplets, and higher water volumes because larger droplets take longer to dry.
- Spray in humid conditions that will last for a few hours after spraying.
- Avoid drying winds.

**SPRAY EVERY LEAF ON EVERY WEED**
Complete coverage is the key to good control.

- Direct the spray pattern to cover weeds hiding behind banana stools as you pass.
- Adjust nozzles to allow for the banana row shoulder and follower height.
- Use appropriate pressure to avoid spraying ‘through’ the plant.
- Adjust water volumes appropriate to weed size and density.
- Consider using spray dye to check coverage on the weeds.

**DO NOT SPRAY WET LEAVES**
The high surfactant loading in Basta means droplets run off wet surfaces too easily.

- Don’t spray if leaves are moist from dew or rainfall.
- Don’t spray if rain is forecast within 6 hours.

**BEST RATES:**
3–5 L/ha Basta in 300–500 L/ha of water

- It is important to use the higher product rate on mature crowsfoot plants and slow-growing plants coming out of winter.
- Rates can be adjusted lower for immature plants.
- The best management solution is to get in early on all grasses.
- Select a rate per hectare *NOT* a dilution rate (i.e. mL/100 L rate).
- **DO NOT** select a handgun rate (e.g. 500 mL/100 L) for application through a boom sprayer.

**BEST CONDITIONS:**
15–33°C with high humidity (ideally <50%)

- Do not apply Basta if rain is likely within 6 hours after application.
- The most suitable conditions are usually in the morning and evening.

**ADDING A WETTER:**
30% of the Basta formulation is a wetter, so it is not usually useful to add one. However, if you need to apply Basta in an exceptionally high volume of water – such as 700 L/ha – you may find adding ammonium sulphate (e.g. Liase) or NuFilm improves control.

**Good coverage and high rates produce the best results**

**POOR RESULT** on mature crowsfoot grass caused by poor spray coverage and a low application rate.

**EXCELLENT CONTROL** of mature crowsfoot grass 16 days after thorough spraying with Basta at 4 L/ha.

**DO NOT** apply Basta by aircraft.

Basta may be used around trees less than 2 years old provided they are effectively shielded from spray and spray drift.