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Freehand[®]

Herbicide

Ornamental & Nursery Stock Application Guide

 **BASF**

We create chemistry

Powerful pre-emergent control for the toughest weeds

Freehand® herbicide offers the ornamental grower a tool for pre-emergent weed control of broadleaf and grassy weeds. Its two unique active ingredients, pendimethalin and dimethenamid-P, prevent weeds from growing and multiplying by inhibiting cell growth in seedling shoots, and impeding plant cell microtubule assembly in roots. This powerful herbicide is labelled for the control and suppression of **more than 60 of the toughest, most troublesome weeds**; promoting higher quality and more marketable plants, saving labour and costs associated with ongoing hand weeding.



Incorporating Freehand Herbicide into your weed management program

Freehand herbicide offers a unique combination of **two modes of action (Groups D and K)** for broader spectrum weed control and resistance management, while being safe on a broad range of ornamentals and nursery stock. Applied as an easy-to-use granular formulation with efficient spreading and flexible application rates, Freehand herbicide provides **extended residual control for up to three months**, without the need to be watered in immediately.

Taking the time to achieve even and measured applications will ensure consistent and reliable pre-emergent control of weeds. Not only does this ensure optimum stock quality at sale, but also offers labour optimisation and cost efficiency as hand weeding is eliminated! To achieve best results, follow the application strategy below:

- Apply evenly over the area or pots to be treated, preferably using a properly calibrated mechanical granule spreader.
- Apply to the surface of weed free soil, preferably after cultivation or just after potting up. Note: Freehand will not control established weeds.
- Apply to dry foliage only and then sprinkler irrigate or hose (10-15 mm) to wash granules from foliage and incorporate the herbicide into the soil.
- One application will last for 2-3 months depending upon rainfall, irrigation, soil type (potting mix), temperature and weed seed burden.
- Retreat when the first signs of weed growth are seen, but no sooner than 2 months and no later than 3 months after the first application.
- Do not apply Freehand 2 weeks prior to, or 2 weeks after, leaf bud break or during periods of flush growth. Newly formed leaves are sensitive to this product. Spotting or leaf drop may result from such applications. Do not apply directly on to bare roots of woody ornamentals as injury may occur.

Freehand provides consistent, long-lasting control compared to competitors



Untreated Control



Freehand, 100 kg/ha



480 g/L Prodiamine, 2 L/ha



20 g/kg Oxadiazon, 200 kg/ha

Flexible application specifics for diverse enterprises

Freehand herbicide is registered for the pre-emergent management of weeds in containers and in-ground ornamental plants. It offers flexibility in its use, diversity in its modes of action, and breadth of control like no other pre-emergent granule on the market.

Within the industry, we appreciate the diversity and dynamic environments that exist, which not only need a flexible solution like Freehand herbicide, but also require specific application considerations for each process or situation. Review the table below for additional, situation specific, application considerations for Freehand herbicide. These should be implemented alongside the general application particulars which exist on the label and directions for use table.

Situation	Application instructions
Newly transplanted field grown nursery plants	Application must occur after transplants have been watered and soil has been thoroughly packed and settled around transplants. Ensure there are no cracks in the soil where granules could come into contact with roots.
Newly transplanted container-grown nursery plants	Application must occur after transplants have been watered and soil has been thoroughly packed and settled around transplants. Ensure there are no cracks in the soil where granules could come into contact with roots. Delay the first application to bare-root liners for 2-weeks after transplanting to allow for root establishment. Do not apply to any size plug, liner tray, unrooted liners, or cuttings being transplanted into pots.
Established container or field-grown nursery plants	Ensure there are no cracks in the soil where granules could come into contact with the roots. Don't apply during bud swell, bud break, or at time of first flush of new growth.
Field-grown or container grown production bulbs	Apply Freehand herbicide to the soil surface only after the crop has been planted and the soil has been settled by several irrigations, but before weed seed germination. In container production, apply Freehand herbicide to a weed-free surface before bulb emergence or after leaf emergence from an established crown plant. Apply Freehand herbicide before, during, or after bulb emergence.
Bareground pad for container placement. Gravel or ground floor of open-sided shade houses	Apply Freehand herbicide to bare ground pad (such as soil, mulch, gravel, wood chips, or other permeable base). Water in. Place containerized ornamental pots on pad.
Landscape uses	Ensure soil or planting mixes have settled firmly following transplanting, and there are no cracks to allow direct contact of the granule with the root. Application where soil and media surfaces are uniformly covered results in best weed control and ornamental tolerance.

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Freehand Herbicide applied at **10 g/m²**



20 g/kg Oxadiazon applied at **10 g/m²**

In-pot application

Ensuring the correct amount of Freehand herbicide is applied per pot will ensure consistent and reliable results.

For broadcast over a potted area where pots are tightly grouped together, refer to the below easy conversion table, calculated based on the label rates:

Freehand Quantity	Area
10-20 g	1 m ²
1-2 kg	100 m ²
100-200 kg	1 ha

For in-pot application refer to the below easy conversion table including various pot sizes, calculated based on the label rates:

Amount of Freehand Required		
Pot Size (Diameter in cm)	Round	Square
10	0.08-0.16 g	0.1-0.2 g
15	0.2-0.4 g	0.25-0.5 g
25	0.5-1.0 g	0.62-1.3 g
40	1.3-2.6 g	1.62-3.3 g
50	2.05-4.1 g	2.6-5.2 g

For a visual guide of the volumes required for in-pot use, see the diagrams below for the amount of Freehand Herbicide required per pot, and the ideal distribution for optimum pre-emergent weed control efficacy.



← 10 cm →



← 15 cm →



← 20 cm →

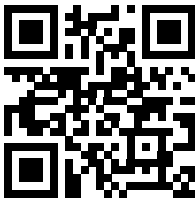


← 30 cm →



Packaging

Available in 22.7 kg bags



For more information on Freehand® Herbicide,
scan the QR code or contact your local
BASF representative on 1800 558 399