

# CONVERT THATCH INTO AN ASSET

**ThatchBusta™ contains a blend of fermentation extracts and nutrients that activate beneficial microbes to convert thatch into humus & promote clover growth.**

- Reduce Browntop thatch
- Improve soil aggregation & soil moisture holding capacity
- Promote clover germination and root penetration
- Improve pasture quality

## Convert Browntop Thatch to Humus

Browntop produces a thick layer of thatch (dead leaves) that covers the top soil choking out more desirable pasture plants such as ryegrass and clovers. This thatch keeps the delicate Browntop seed dry, as it is susceptible to rotting, in the same way a thatched roof keeps out the rain. The thatch traps trash, restricts moisture and air circulation to the soil, and other native grass species take hold.

Reduce Browntop thatch and improve pasture quality with either an autumn or spring application of ThatchBusta depending on your land use.

### Improve pasture - ThatchBusta with chemical topping:

Aerial spray in spring once soil temperatures are 10°C and rising. The low rates of herbicide check the aggressive growth of the Browntop and disrupt the reproductive cycle of the plant, preventing the plant from seeding. ThatchBusta activates the microbes responsible for decomposition to convert the thatch into humus, promoting the ideal growing environment for ryegrass and clover.

**Land preparation for cropping:** Reduce the time and cost required to work up a paddock choked with thatch. Ground spray ThatchBusta in autumn, six month prior to spring sowing. ThatchBusta activates the microbes responsible for decomposition to break down dead material and dense thatch over the winter months.



ThatchBusta and chemical topping strips on hillside

## Improve soil structure

ThatchBusta stimulates the microbes responsible for decomposing organic matter. Some bacteria and fungi produce substances during the decomposition process that chemically and physically bind soil particles into micro-aggregates. The hyphal strands of fungi can cross-link soil particles helping to form and maintain aggregate allowing increased air circulation and moisture to penetrate. Humus, the dark organic matter that forms in the soil, is the by-product of the decomposition process. Humus contains many useful nutrients for healthy soil, has a high water holding capacity to help soil to withstand drought conditions and increases the soil's ability to store nutrients for plant uptake.



Untreated

## Promote clover growth

By removing the thatch and improving soil structure, dormant clover and ryegrass seeds can now germinate and roots penetrate deeper into the soil. Increased root depth and structure will mean your pasture will withstand drought, heavy rains and grazing better. ThatchBusta also contains nutrients to promote clover growth.



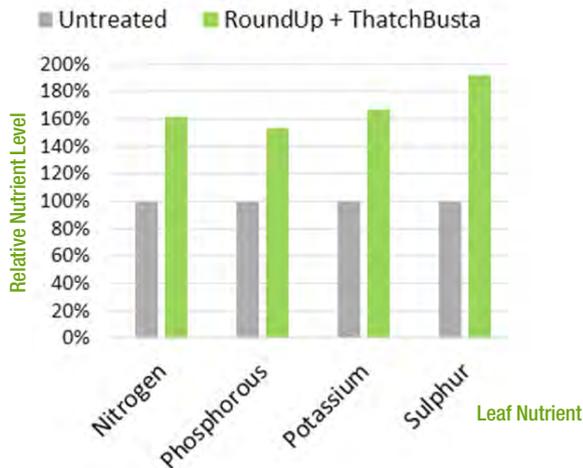
Treated

## Increased nutrient availability

By increasing biological activity with ThatchBusta, you also increase the rate at which nutrients from organic matter and fertiliser are converted into a plant available form. The pasture leaf nutrient test below shows increases in nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium and sulphur, 5 months after the application of 3 L/ha ThatchBusta and 225 mL/ha Round-Up Extra.

### Effect of ThatchBusta on Pasture Leaf Nutrient Levels

**Central Otago trial:** Application Nov 2001; Leaf Nutrient Test April 2002, Hills Lab.



**“I’ve been using ThatchBusta at 3 L/ha to convert thatch into humus and improve soil structure. Treated paddocks have had a significant increase in dry matter and ME, resulting in an increased number of grazings and the stock graze the treated paddocks more evenly.**

**The ThatchBusta program is more cost effective than traditional cultivation techniques.”**

*Cam Muir, Sheep and Beef Farmer, Central Plateau*

## Direction for use

**Application notes:** For best results graze out paddocks and allow sward to freshen prior to application. Apply ThatchBusta™ in the early morning, late afternoon or in overcast conditions. Calibrate and clean sprayer before use.

**Compatibility:** Compatible with commonly used herbicides and nutritional sprays.

**Mixing Instructions:** Half fill the spray tank with water and while mixing slowly add the required amount of ThatchBusta then top up with water.

Reduce Thatch & Promote Clover Growth	Timing	Application Rate	Comments
Land preparation for cropping - prior to direct drilling or cultivation	Autumn	3 L/ha	Ground spray 6 months prior to spring sowing. Minimum water rate is 200 L/ha.
Improve pasture - ThatchBusta with chemical topping	Spring Soil temperature 10°C and rising	3 L/ha	Aerial spray: Apply ThatchBusta with chemical topping. Call BioStart on 0800 116 229 for further information. Minimum water rate is 40 L/ha. Paddocks will yellow for approximately 4 weeks.



Call 0800 116 229 or visit [www.biostart.co.nz](http://www.biostart.co.nz)

MADE IN  
NEW ZEALAND



AVAILABLE IN PACK SIZES: 20 L, 1000 L