

Winter Oil Seed Rape

Pests

Slugs

The key to controlling slugs is Monitoring.... Monitoring...Monitoring.

Steps	Action
Type of soil	Slugs cannot actively burrow but their flexible mucous covered bodies are suitable for squeezing between cracks in the soil or following well-defined seed furrows. This is especially pertinent when direct drilling heavier soil types, which will more easily form distinctive seed slots as opposed to lighter more friable soils. Heavier soil types tend to stay in clods giving slugs room to move
Green Bridge	Try to reduce the amount of weed/cereal re-growth by means of cultivation. The physical process of cultivation will also reduce numbers.
Count slug numbers	Count the numbers of slugs before cultivation. This can often give a more accurate picture of slug numbers Traps consist of a cover about 25cm across, with a small heap (20ml or 2 heaped teaspoonfuls) of chicken layer's mash (NOT slug pellets) beneath. In each field, nine traps (13 in fields larger than 20ha) should be set out in a 'W' pattern. Also concentrate on areas known to suffer damage. Leave traps overnight and examine early the following morning. FOR WINTER OILSEED RAPE a catch of 4 or more slugs in standing cereals, or 1 or more in cereal stubble, if other conditions were met, would also indicate possible risk of damage.
Seed Rates	If slugs are likely to be a problem increase the seeding rate of the crop to be sown or take immediate action at sowing to reduce the numbers
Loose Seed bed	All seed beds should be rolled if slug damage is anticipated Roll with ring roller (roll twice if seed bed is not consolidated enough after the first rolling)

Slug Pellet products

Product	Active Ingredient	Rate	Cost RRP	Comment
Draza Elite	Methiocarb 3%ww	3-5 kg/ha	€16.6	
Pathfinder 5	Methaldehyde 5%	5-8kg/ha	€27.5/15kg	
Metarex RG	Methaldehyde 6%	4-6kg/ha	€60/16kg	Wet process giving increased weather resistance
Wipeout	Methaldehyde 5%	7.5-8 kg/ha	€42/15kg	water proof covering included (may not equal Metarex product)
Slugout	Methaldehyde 5%	7.5-8 kg/ha	€30/15kg	

Flea Beetle



Shot-holing from adult Flea-beetles (Taken from Pests of Oilseed Rape: A Scottish Perspective, 2001, Andy Evans, SAC)

The adult beetle causes shot-holing to the young rape plant, however this damage is not significant. Slug damage tends to have larger, ragged holes in the leaves and whole sections of leaf material eaten. The adult beetle lays its egg and the resulting larvae burrow into the stem of the rape plant. This weakens the stem, causing lodging and loss of yield. Plants can be checked for the presence of cabbage stem flea beetle larvae from November onwards, and if, on average, 3- 5 larvae are found per plant, then an insecticide treatment may be worthwhile. Beetle grubs have 3 pairs of legs, have a distinct head and are lightly spotted as compared to the Leaf miner grubs below.

Cabbage leaf miner

This pest often causes noticeable mines in the lower leaves of autumn-sown rape. However, the damage is seldom threatening to the plant and providing the crop is not late-sown or too backward, plants usually grow away from the damage.

