

MEDIA VERSION NO. 4 | May 23rd 2018

Teagasc Specialist TILLAGE CROPS REPORT



Headlines

- Spring planting is finally coming to a conclusion. There is still some maize and fodder beet to be planted but spring barley is complete at this stage.
- Preliminary results from the BPS applications in 2018 indicate an overall decrease of over 5% in the main tillage crops. Crops with the largest decreases include Winter wheat (-11%), Winter Barley (-13%) and Winter Oats (-30%). Many spring crops have decreased areas with Spring Wheat (-47%), Spring Oats (-22%), protein crops (8,400 ha, -38%) and potatoes (-14%) the worst affected. A few crops have increased area including spring barley (+7%), maize (+40%) and beet (+9%). These figures may change slightly with on farm amendments in the next few weeks.
- Barley yellow dwarf virus (BYDV) will be one of the biggest challenges for late planted spring barley this season. Aphids (the vector of BYDV) numbers increase dramatically in May as temperatures increase so correct timing of an insecticide at the four leaf stage is vital to give the best possible control.
- Winter crops have good yield potential this year. Winter wheat is approaching its flag leaf fungicide at the fully emerged flag leaf. This timing is vital to counteract the high septoria challenge. Winter barley crops have remained relatively clean and many crops have received their final fungicide.
- Applications for the Basic Payment Scheme closed on May 15th. Applications can be amended until May 31st. late applications can be submitted until June 10th but will incur a penalty.

Next crop report Tuesday 12th June

All information is provided as a guideline only. The definitive information is on the product label which should be read and adhered to before using or recommending products.

Produced by the Crops Knowledge Transfer Department, Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow

Photos of the Moment



Awns at “paint brush” is the ideal timing for the final fungicide on winter barley. Delaying until flowering can result on a yield loss of 0.4t/ha



Many spring barley crops are suffering from deficiencies e.g. manganese. Avoid complicated tank mixes on these crops.



Flag leaf fungicide (T2) should be applied when the flag leaf is fully emerged on winter wheat crops



Bean weevil damage is very evident in crops this year. Consider treatment with a pyrethroid insecticide, if damage is significant.

Winter Wheat

Recent warm weather has helped wheat crops to catch up in terms of growth stages however there still remains significant variation between locations, sowing date and varieties. Accurate timing of the flag leaf application will be essential for good disease control in wheat. Septoria pressure is relatively high after the wet April.



Winter Barley

Winter barley has good yield potential this year. Many crops have received their final fungicide. Disease levels have remained relatively low this year and ramularia control will be the target of the final fungicide.



Winter Oats

Winter oats are at the booting to head fully out stage. Crops have responded well to the favourable growing conditions and are growing strongly. There are no significant disease incidences reported so far. The final fungicides application will be applied to crops in the coming days if not already done so.



Winter Oil Seed Rape

Most crops are now mid-late flowering but are still behind where you would normally expect them to be at this time of year. Fertiliser applications and weed control are completed at this stage in most crops.



Beans

Beans are well behind normal growth stages for the time of year due to late planting. Growth stages vary from 2 leaves unfolded to 6-8 leaves unfolded. Notching from bean weevil is common and there have also been low levels of slug damage in some sites. There are no reports of foliar disease so far.



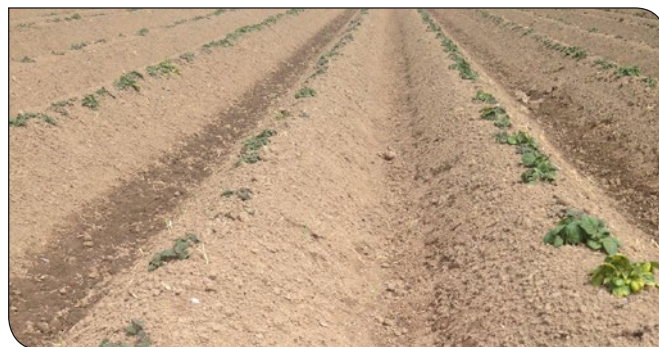
Spring Cereals

The area of spring barley has increased this year (+7%) due to the lack of opportunities to plant wheat and oats. Growth stages vary from one leaf stage to mid tillering in some early planted crops. Crop establishment is excellent apart from headlands in some earlier planted crops. Aphid control (BYDV vector) is the main challenge but there are reports of leather jacket and slug damage in some crops.



Potatoes

Planting has progressed well over the last few weeks, despite the late start, with most growers nearing the finish. Earlier planted crops will soon emerge so weed control will be required before emergence.



Forage Crops

The area of forage crops has increased this year particularly maize and fodder beet. There are still opportunities for wholecrop cereals later in the season when livestock farmers have completed their winter forage budgets.



Maize

The planting of maize is ongoing and is expected to be completed in the coming days. Latest figures from the DAFM suggest maize plantings have increased by 40% in 2018 compared to 2017.



Fodder Beet

The area of fodder beet is expected to increase in 2018. Planting will be completed in the coming days. Some earlier sown crops are at cotyledon stage and are ready for the first herbicide. Crops need to be monitored carefully for pests especially leatherjacket.



Grassland Weed Control

Control of grassland weeds should allow sufficient time to before cutting or grazing. Delay application where time is a factor and apply after cutting once adequate regrowth has taken place.



Protecting Drinking Water & Water Ways

If used incorrectly pesticide application to agricultural land can put water quality at risk. All users of pesticides including householders, amenity users, farmers, etc. should carefully read the product label before use, paying particular care to all safety guidelines.



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