

MEDIA VERSION NO. 6 | July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018

# Teagasc Specialist TILLAGE CROPS REPORT



## Headlines

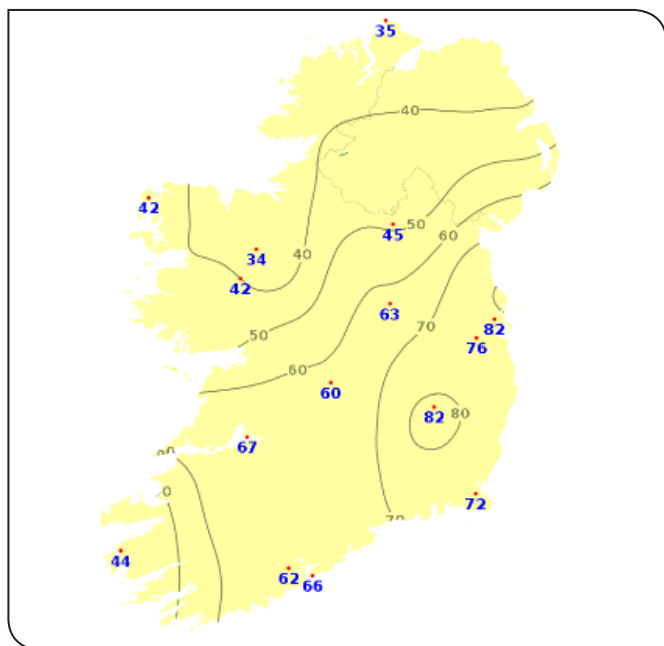
- All crops are suffering from drought conditions. Soil moisture deficit are extremely high with values of 60 to 82mm in Munster and Leinster (Far East of Ulster) and 20 to 30mm in Connacht and most of Ulster.
- Yield potential of spring cereals are extremely variable. April planted crops that received rain have good potential but later planted crops are suffering from drought stress and are short with poor plant counts. Average grain and straw yield of spring crops will be well back on last year.
- Winter crops have good yield potential this year. Some heavier crops of winter barley have lodged but are near harvest. The winter barley harvest will commence towards the end of the week in the earliest areas.
- Straw supply will be reduced by approximately 25-30% this year. Preliminary figures from the DAFM indicate that the area of cereals has reduced by 16,500ha from 2017. In addition to this straw yield from spring barley will be lower than normal due to drought conditions.
- Fodder beet is suffering from drought stress but has a long growing season to recover. In contrast maize has grown well over the last few weeks and is on target for good yields and quality.

Next crop report August 14<sup>th</sup>

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



Soil moisture deficit are up to 80mm in parts of the country.

Source: <https://www.met.ie/forecasts/farming>



Winter barley has good yield potential and harvest will commence towards the end of the week.



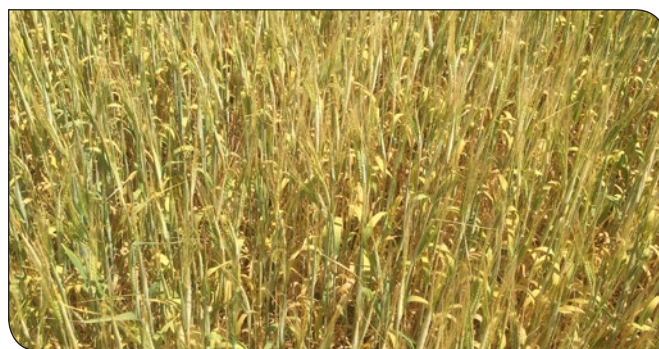
Spring barley suffering from drought conditions.



Winter oilseed rape is approaching timing for desiccation.

## Drought

Soil Moisture Deficit (SMD) is the amount of rain needed to bring the soil moisture content back to field capacity. Met Eireann are reporting soil moisture deficits of up to 80mm in some of the main tillage areas, with no rain forecast this could hit 100mm in well drained soils.



## Grass Weed Control

Grass weeds such as Wild Oats, Sterile Brome and Canary Grass are very visible again this year. Teagasc has also confirmed the presence of Black grass in areas where this weed was previously unknown. Growers should assess fields for grass weed control, taking note of any unusual grass weeds and seek help to identify and put in place an appropriate management strategy.



## Pre-Harvest Glyphosate in Cereals/OSR

Glyphosate use pre-harvest is acknowledged as being safe. However, much of the negative publicity around glyphosate focuses on its use for manipulation of harvest date. Therefore, the DAFM have restricted the pre-harvest use of glyphosate to cereal crops for weed control purposes only.



## Winter Wheat

Crops are now in grain filling stage. The recent dry weather has helped to reduce the risk of diseases such as septoria, mildew and fusarium spreading in crops. The effect of the dry weather on final yield remains to be seen as some crops are suffering more than others.



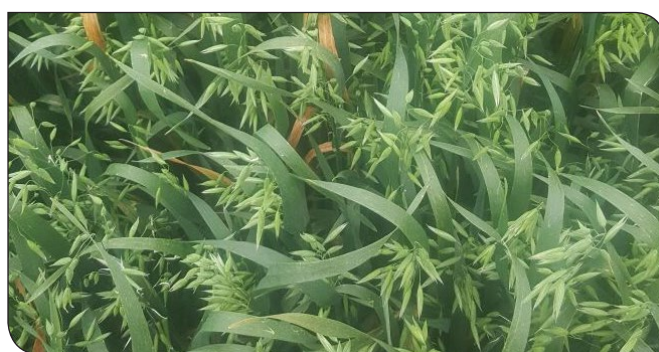
## Winter Barley

Winter barley has good yield potential this year. All crops are at senescence stage and there are a few reports of lodging. Harvesting has commenced 10-14 earlier than normal.



## Winter Oats

Winter oats are now at grain fill stage (GS 70-79) and are generally free from disease. Crops have good yield potential however oats do not like very high temperatures so what effect the recent hot spell will have on yield will be seen at harvest.



## Winter Oil Seed Rape

Most crops are coming towards the end of the pod filling stage and some of the seeds in the early formed pods are starting to change colour. Some of the seeds in the later formed pods on the branches may be slightly behind so careful assessment is needed before desiccation.



## Beans

Growth stages vary depending on planting date. Early planted crops are at pod fill while later planted crops are at early flowering. Disease levels are low but drought stress is beginning to show up in some crops. Earlier crops are shorter than normal with fewer pods.



## Spring Cereals

Drought stress is the predominant feature of spring crops this season. Soil moisture deficit are extremely high with values of 60 to 80mm in many of the spring cereal areas. As a result many spring barley crops are shorter than normal and have low shoot counts.



## Spring Oilseed Rape

Spring oilseed rape growth stages vary from mid to flowering to the start of petal fall.



## Potatoes

Many crops are under severe drought stress at the moment. Only about 25-30% of crops have irrigation. Yields and quality in many crops have already been affected. Applications of any products need careful consideration at the moment to avoid adding more stress to the crops.



## Maize

Maize has benefited from the recent warm weather and despite late planting is on target to produce good yields and quality.



## Fodder Beet

Beet crops are variable. Some crops are closing the furrows but later planted crops are struggling due to drought and weed control has been delayed as a result. Pest damage is evident in some crops.



## Forage Crops

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



## Grassland Weed Control

Control of grassland weeds should allow sufficient time before cutting or grazing. Delay application where time is a factor and apply after cutting once adequate regrowth has taken place. Do not apply herbicides to grassland under drought stress.



## 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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