

MEDIA VERSION NO. 3 | April 10th 2019

Teagasc Specialist TILLAGE CROPS REPORT



Headlines

- Planting of spring wheat, oats and beans is virtually complete. Good progress has been made with spring barley and will be completed in the next few dry days.
- Unrolling the inner leaves in winter wheat over the next few weeks is of critical importance to ensure the correct timing of the leaf three fungicide. A fully emerged leaf three is the target. In an era of declining efficacy of fungicides to septoria an incorrectly timed leaf three application will be detrimental to yield in a high disease pressure year.
- Many winter barley crops are 'off colour' due to fungicide/growth regulator applications during recent warm days that were followed by cold nights. Disease levels are moderate. Rhyncho is evident and there are sporadic cases of Brown Rust and Ramularia. BYDV is present in many crops.
- The European Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCoPAFF) has voted against renewal of approval of the fungicide Chlorothalonil. No dates are confirmed but it will be available for this season. The greatest impact of its withdrawal will be on the control of Ramularia in barley and septoria in wheat.

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



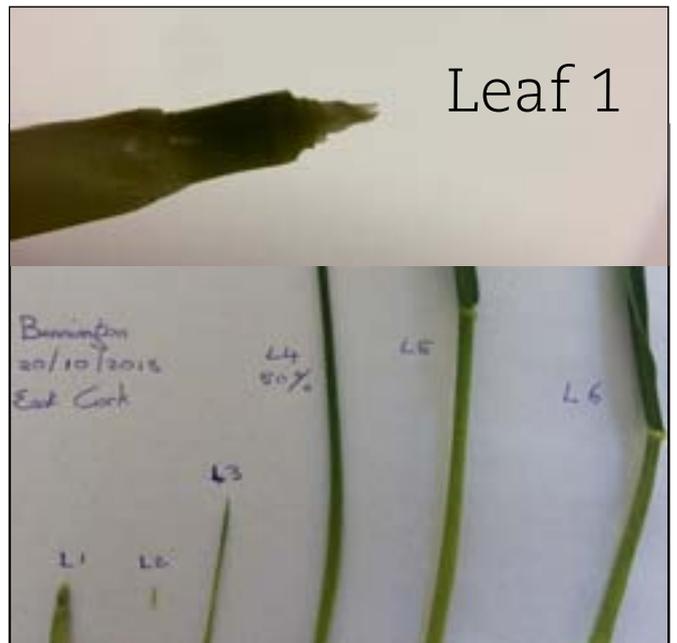
Ramularia. Application of CTL vital for control.



Spray scorch with complicated mixtures.



BYDV is evident in winter barley.



Assess leaf emergence on winter wheat to ensure correct fungicide timing.

Winter Barley

Most winter barley is at GS 31 with some advanced crops at GS 32. Some crops are 'off colour' due to the application of fungicides and growth regulators during warm days that were followed by cold nights. In general disease levels are low but there are sporadic cases of ramularia, net blotch (spot form) and brown rust particularly in the south. Rhynchosporium is present in susceptible varieties. BYDV is evident in some early sown crops. Final nitrogen application is now a priority for crops that have not received it.



Winter Wheat

Crops have progressed steadily through the early spring with most crops now at or approaching growth stage 31. Disease levels at the moment appear to be moderate however the mild conditions and the recent rain will help the development of septoria. Yellow rust has appeared in susceptible varieties in recent days and requires immediate attention. Growth regulators and the main split of nitrogen are due on most crops.



Winter Oats

The cool weather has slowed growth with most crops at GS31. Advanced crops are close to GS32. Disease levels have increased in crops in the southern half of the country more than further north. Worrying levels of crown rust have appeared in Cork especially. Where rust levels are high swift action is warranted. The cold weather has slowed the progress of mildew.



Winter Oil Seed Rape

Crops are flowering and have progressed well in the last few weeks, fertiliser applications are complete at this stage in all crops. Crops will potentially be flowering for longer this year which will provide a source of nutrition for pollinators. Sclerotinia control is now the priority for crops.



Beans

The uptake of spring beans this year is low. Sowing is virtually complete and indications are that the area is similar to last year. The area sown last year was 7,000ha which was down from 11,500ha in 2017 due to the late spring. Most herbicides were applied at sowing. Prevention of crow damage will be the priority in the coming weeks.



Spring Cereals

Sowing of spring wheat and oats is complete and good progress has been made with spring barley. Spring cereals sown to date have been sown into excellent seedbeds. Aim to establish 300 seeds/m² for April sown barley. This means planting 350seed/m² at 85% establishment.



Maize

As a result of the fodder crisis last spring the area of maize increased to 18,000ha from 11,000 in 2017. Only a slight reduction is expected in 2019 as livestock farmers build fodder reserves. Despite late sowing in 2018 yield and quality were excellent as a result of increased temperatures during the summer. Sowing of 2019 crops under plastic will take place from now on in sheltered sites, while open crops will not be sown until after mid-April.



Spring Oilseed Rape

Spring rape may be an option for growers as a relatively low cost break crop option. It is important to complete a crop budget before planting as profitability has been an issue with spring oilseed rape in the past. See the 2019 Costs and Returns booklet for comparisons with other break crops;

<https://www.teagasc.ie/publications/2019/crops-costs-and-returns-2019.php>



Potatoes

Planting of the main crop potatoes is now well underway with some early planted crops starting to emerge. Ground conditions are good in most areas and soil temperatures are above average for this time of year. Seed supply is generally good despite the 2018 growing season.



Fodder Beet

Very little beet has been sown to date. Priority will be given to the completion of cereals but beet can be sown from now on. Similar to maize growers should ensure they have a contract in place with a purchaser before sowing beet.



Greening Update

There are relatively few changes to the Greening system this year. Rules are largely the same as 2018.

The Basic Payment scheme (approx. 70% of the total payment) and Greening (approx. 30% of the total payment) go hand in hand again this year. Both of these schemes are mandatory to ensure full payment.

All applicants who are required to comply with greening have to make the application through the Department of Agriculture on-line system.



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