

MEDIA VERSION NO. 6 | June 17th 2019

Teagasc Specialist TILLAGE CROPS REPORT



Headlines

- Spring cereals are in good condition. Rainfall in early June came just in time to alleviate drought stress in some parts of the country. Currently disease levels are low but recent rain has disrupted the final fungicide application on spring barley.
- According to recently released BPS application figures the area of winter barley is at its highest recorded level of 80,500 ha. Crops are at grain fill stage and have good yield potential due to high shoot counts and good disease control.
- Grass weeds, particularly bromes in winter crops are concerning growers. Worryingly there has also been an increase in the number of reported cases of blackgrass. Correct identification and hand-roguing is essential to eliminate the problem. One blackgrass plant can produce up to 1,000 seeds.
- Teagasc Crops and Spreaders open day will take place at Teagasc Oak Park on June 26th. This year's Open day has a primary focus on the importance of accurate fertiliser spreading to support sustainable productivity, with live spreader demonstrations through the day.

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



Late sown spring barley appear to have high levels of BYDV



Removal of grass weeds will reduce infestation levels in subsequent years.



Crops and Spreaders in Oak Park will take place on Wednesday June 26th



Cold weather has affected maize growth

Winter Barley

Winter barley crops are well into grain fill. Yield potential is excellent this year with high shoot counts and crops that are relatively free of disease. Grass weeds are problematic for many growers and hand rouging will be the priority between now and harvest.



Winter Wheat

Crops are starting to flower at this stage and are due the final head spray. Disease levels are high overall despite the dry May with septoria and yellow rust common in many crops. Where timings were missed earlier in the programme disease levels tend to be higher than you would like.



Winter Oats

Winter oats have all headed out at this stage and are filling the grains. Crops would appear to have good potential where diseases were controlled. Oats do not like extremes of hot weather or drought so the current weather being experienced should suit them.



Winter Oil Seed Rape

Crops are now well into pod filling stage. Most crops will be approaching the stage for desiccation in the coming weeks so crops will need to be checked regularly to decide on the correct timing.



Beans

Beans are at mid flowering and most have received their first fungicide. Disease levels are moderate to low. Downy mildew was evident early on but has receded, recent rain and cool conditions will increase the pressure from chocolate spot.



Spring Cereals

Rainfall in early June came just in time for spring cereals and crops have grown well since then. Spring barley is at awn emergence while spring wheat and oats are near flag leaf emergence. Disease levels are low especially in spring barley where the final fungicide will be applied in the next few days where ramularia is the main target. BYDV symptoms have appeared in some crops in recent days.



Maize

Crops have come through the plastic but growth has slowed due to recent cool weather. Maize needs an increase in temperature at this critical stage of development to fulfil its potential. Weed control in crops under plastic has been variable particularly where the weed burden is high and follow up treatment may be required.



Spring Oilseed Rape

Crops are now flowering and will soon need their sclerotinia fungicide application at early petal fall.



Potatoes

Crops are progressing well and the recent rains are helping the residual herbicides to work. There have been a couple of blight warnings already so growers will need to start programmes if they have not already done so.



Fodder Beet

Despite slow growth in recent days early sown beet is on target to have closed the furrows by the longest day of the year. Weed control has been successful in well-timed programmes. There have been several reports of mangold fly damage in the south.



Forage Crops

The area of forage crops is slightly lower this year as the autumn planting provided an ideal opportunity for growers to get crops in. Many farmers traded wholecrop cereals last year to help with the fodder deficit and there may well be an opportunity to do so again in 2019.



Grassland Weed Control

Adoption of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach where cultural control methods are considered before the use of pesticides is essential to sustainable weed control in grassland.



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