

MEDIA VERSION NO. 2 | March 22nd 2019

Teagasc Specialist TILLAGE CROPS REPORT



Headlines

- Winter crops are only slightly ahead of normal growth stages for the time of year despite their leafy appearance. Dense canopies are a feature of many crops and growth regulation will be the priority as winter oats and barley move into stem extension. Disease levels are low apart from mildew in oats and some winter barley crops.
- Many oilseed rape crops are at the start of flowering, most crops have adequate canopies with most Green Area Index (GAI) in range of 3.0 to 3.5. Significant fertiliser savings have been made as a result. There are high levels of light leaf spot in some rape crops particularly crops that did not receive an autumn fungicide.
- There is very little spring cereals sown to date as wet weather has slowed progress. Crops that were sown in late February are now starting to emerge. There are reports of some very localised water damage where some parts of fields were submerged for a period of time.
- Reports from advisors indicate that the uptake of beans has been slow to date. Beans have the potential to be very profitable for growers in 2019 based on the contract prices on offer which are in excess of €210/t. The protein payment is available again this year and growers received €350/ha in 2018.
- The likely economic implications of Brexit outcomes for Irish specialist tillage farms are relatively benign, compared to the possible effect on other main sectors of Irish agriculture

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



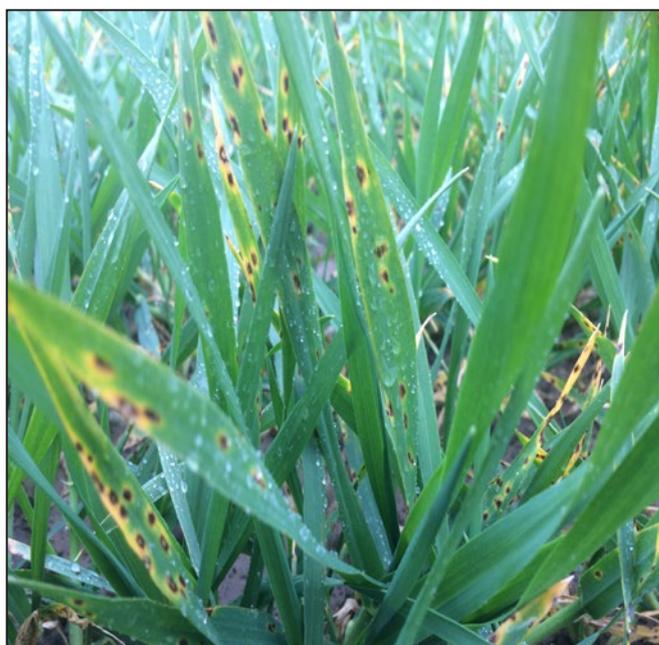
Oilseed rape crops have started flowering earlier than normal.



The first application of fertiliser is now due on winter wheat and oats.



Early sown spring cereals have now emerged



Net blotch (Spot form) on winter barley found in Co. Cork.

Winter Wheat

Crops have progressed steadily through the early spring with many varieties now at or approaching growth stage 30. Disease levels at the moment appear to be moderate however the mild conditions and the recent rain will help the development of septoria. Most crops are now due to receive their first application of a compound fertiliser.



Winter Barley

Most winter barley crops have well developed canopies and are at GS 30. Disease levels are low and early season mildew has reduced. The decision to apply a fungicide at GS 30 will depend on a number of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) factors such as the presence of disease, location and varietal characteristics. Most crops have received their first nitrogen application and will receive the main split as crop move towards GS 31...



Winter Oats

Crops have progressed over the past few weeks but many are tipped following the cold weather and wind, yellowing of old growth is common. Most crops are at the stem extension stage from GS30-31. A few well advanced crops are at GS31-32. Disease levels have not advanced due to the cold weather but a large base of mildew is evident on all crops.



Winter Oil Seed Rape

Crops have continued to grow well in February and early March most are at green bud stage however some crops started flowering before St. Patrick's day. Light leaf spot is common, even on crops that have been sprayed. Most crops will need their final application of nitrogen as soon as possible.



Beans

Some beans were planted in the last two weeks but reports suggest that uptake so far is slow and need to be prioritised from now on to achieve top yields. Based on current contract prices on offer (>€200/t) and the Teagasc harvest report 5 year yield average of 6.0t/ha (2013-2017) beans can be profitable for growers in 2019.



Spring Cereals

There has been very little spring cereals planted to date but some progress has been made with ploughing and the removal of cover crops. The area of wheat and oats are expected to be low due to seed availability and autumn plantings. There are large variations in seed thousand grain weight (TGW) this year therefore it will be important to calculate seed rate using the TGW printed on each bag/pallet of seed.



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.



Economics of the tillage sector: possible Brexit implications

The likely economic implications of alternative Brexit outcomes, such as No Deal, Unilateral Trade Liberalisation or a Free Trade Agreement, for Irish specialist tillage farms are relatively benign, compared to the other main sectors of Irish agriculture.



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