

TILLAGE

November 2021

Winter cereals

The area of winter cereals is expected to be near normal this year due to excellent conditions for sowing this autumn. Attention in November will turn to weed control and the prevention of barley yellow dwarf virus (BYDV).

BYDV

Cereal crops emerging in November are at much lower risk of BYDV than crops that emerged in October. However, the decision on whether to apply an insecticide is dependent on a number of factors. Insecticide application should be targeted so check if aphids are present in the crop. Look at the headlands because aphids are three times more likely to land near headlands than further out in the field. Aphid numbers are more likely to be higher when the weather is mild. Wind and rain inhibit aphid flight. If aphids are present, apply an insecticide at the 2-3 leaf stage of the crop (Table 1). Early-sown crops will be at a higher risk of BYDV than later-sown crops. Crops sown

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Inspect crops for aphids before applying an insecticide.

in late September/early October may have been treated by now but monitor crops for presence of aphids to determine whether a second aphicide is required. While resistance (partial) has been detected among the grain aphid population, pyrethroids (Karate, etc.) will still be effective for the majority of growers. Multiple applications of pyrethroids should be avoided to prevent the development of full resistance, so alternate to a different insecticide group if a second application is required. Transform (from the sulfoximine insecticide class) is available this

Table 1: Aphid control recommendations.

Sowing	BYDV risk	Control action
Early sown (not recommended)	High	Pyrethroid at 2-3 leaf stage and sulfoximine in early November
October sown	Medium to high	Pyrethroid or sulfoximine in early November
Emerging after November	Low	Control needed in mild winters, where aphids are plentiful or in high-risk areas

year and has been effective in Teagasc trials. Transform – there is no known resistance to the sulfoximine class of insecticides:

- max individual dose 48g/ha;
- max number of treatments – one per crop; and,
- only allowed on winter cereals from GS12-21 during November, December and January, or between GS39 and 87.

Weed control

Where a pre-emergence herbicide has not been used, apply a broad-acting herbicide at early post emergence.

Herbicide selection should be based on field history, as there are very few mixes available that cover a complete range of weeds.

Priority should be given to the most competitive weeds, e.g., annual meadow grass, cleavers, sterile brome, charlock and wild oats.

Popular weed control options for wheat and barley include: Flight 4.0L; Defy 2.0L plus DFF 0.1L; Tower 2.0L; and, Firebird 0.3L. (There are many combinations of these active ingredients available in the market, which can offer flexibility and savings to growers.)

For wheat only, Alister Flex is a good contact grass weed option and Broadway Star (soil temperature >8°C) is a strong sterile brome



Include herbicide with insecticide at the 2-3 leaf stage.

option. It is important to reassess weeds four weeks later and when spring growth commences, as many treatments will require a follow-up herbicide.

Slugs

Monitor any later-planted crops (especially wheat) for pest attack as soils become wetter. Where you suspect slugs may be a problem lay down some traps using a plastic bag or slate with muesli underneath to attract the slugs. Monitor the traps daily to see the populations. If you see five or more slugs, on average, treatment is probably warranted on emerging or struggling crops.

Winter oilseed rape

The area of winter oilseed rape has increased by an estimated 25% this season due to a combination of high forward prices and planting opportunities last August. Crops are generally more forward than normal due to above average temperatures in September, so monitoring for disease is important. Phoma is common in the autumn and once the threshold of 10% of plants affected is reached the crop should be treated. Light leaf spot is the main disease of rape in Ireland but identifying it in the autumn is difficult. To prevent disease, all rape crops should get a fungicide for light leaf spot in November. This will also cover phoma. Proline or Prosaro are rated the best for light leaf spot control in Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) trials but other products like Juventus, Magnello or tebuconazole can also be used.



Threshold for treatment is when 10% of plants are affected.

Juventus and tebuconazole products have some growth regulatory activity but their impact will be reduced as temperatures drop in November.

Signpost Programme



Earlier this year Teagasc launched the Signpost Programme. The Programme will focus on practices to reduce emissions and nutrient losses, understand and improve soil carbon, while enhancing farm biodiversity and water quality. Signpost farmers will be supported on how to change practices to reduce emissions, while at the same time maintaining or improving profitability. Two of the six tillage farmers in the Signpost Programme are John Crowley and Tom Tierney.



John Crowley

John is a tillage farmer from just outside Ferns in Co. Wexford. He farms his own holding, which comprises 36ha and leases 40ha which adjoins his farm.

The main crop is spring malting barley, along with smaller quantities of winter barley and spring beans. John's farm is quite typical of the area around the

Slaney Valley in Wexford. The free-draining nature of the Clonroche series soils that are found across the area are ideal for the production of quality crops of spring malting barley.

A key focus on John's farm will be the effective role of cover crops in the system to protect soil and reduce nutrient losses.

To see more about John's operation, visit:
<https://youtu.be/9vejm4mkSdw>.



Tom Tierney

Tom is a tillage farmer from Ballinaghfagh, Prosperous, Co. Kildare, operating on 55ha around his farm yard, and a further 110ha of leased land in partnership

with Gordon Lucas within 15km of his base. Tom grows winter and spring cereals in a rotation, with the break crops winter oilseed rape and spring beans on a diversity of soils ranging from

heavy clay to peat. Tom has moved from a plough-based system to directly drilling crops in the last ten years. He has adapted his farming system using crop rotations in an effort to help reduce his establishment costs. Organic manures are incorporated into the cropping rotation to help improve soil fertility and health.

For further information on the Signpost Programme log on to: www.teagasc.ie.

IPMWorks



IPMWorks is an EU-wide farm network demonstrating and promoting cost-effective integrated pest management (IPM) strategies. The objective of the project is to establish a number of demonstration farms or hubs, that will demonstrate and promote IPM strategies and techniques that can reduce EU farmers' reliance on pesticides, while still maintaining pest control, crop yields and farm incomes. IPMWorks will establish a large integrated network of farms and advisors who will:

1. Demonstrate that IPM-based strategies, when designed at farm level, can reduce the reliance on pesticides while boosting economic performance.
2. Promote the adoption of advanced cost-effective IPM strategies both by farmers within the network and by farmers linked in by network activities.
3. Promote new advisory strategies to facilitate the routine use of IPM.
4. Establish an organisation able to promote adoption of advanced IPM by all EU farmers.

Teagasc is working with a number of farms who are participating in the project and will hold walks on these farms demonstrating the specific IPM practices adopted on each individual farm. *IPMWorks farmers are also participating in the Signpost Programme.*

Tillage podcast

For all the latest tillage news, the Teagasc tillage podcast is available on the Teagasc website, Apple Podcasts, Spotify or on the QR code here.

