

TILLAGE

June 2024

Grass weed control

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Desiccated blackgrass.

Already we are starting to see problem grass weeds like blackgrass, Italian ryegrass, sterile brome, etc., appearing in crops. This may be due to the lack of competition from thin cereal crops in 2024, but they seem to be a growing problem year on year. June is the critical month for dealing with these grass weeds and preventing them from setting seed, which may stay in the soil for years. Waiting until July is too late. Previously anyone who travelled to the Cereals show in the UK



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will have seen areas within fields burned off with glyphosate to prevent plants from shedding seed back onto the field. We are starting to see some growers taking the same responsible approach here in Ireland in the last few years. In the long run this will save the grower a lot of money in grass weed control. In the UK, it is estimated that resistant blackgrass is costing growers between €400 and €500/ha. This is clearly a cost that no Irish grower can afford. In Denmark, Italian ryegrass has overtaken blackgrass as the number one grass weed. Rogueing is still the most effective method of control before populations get out of hand. All growers should walk their crops to make sure there are no outbreaks.

Remember, letting blackgrass or Italian ryegrass grow until harvest will increase the problem on your farm, and it will also contaminate your neighbours' farms as well. In the UK, researchers observed that blackgrass spread along motorways from loads of straw, which were sold to livestock farms, power stations or composters. Teagasc is offering free herbicide resistance testing to check any grass or broadleaf weed to see if it is resistant to the various different available herbicides. Contact your advisor, follow the instructions on <https://bit.ly/3MrlcgR>, or scan the QR code using your smartphone.



Spring barley

Disease control

Spring barley crops have grown very well over the last month or so and most will have received their first fungicide. The risk of infection of rhynchosporium and net blotch will be determined by the disease rating of each individual variety; however, in the case of ramularia, it is normally caused by stress in the crop. While different varieties have varying levels of tolerance to ramularia, all spring barley crops will get some level of infection. Ramularia can only be controlled preventively, so early fungicide application is key.

Trials in Oak Park indicate that the multisite folpet (Arizona, Stavento, Mirror,



Ramularia is best controlled at awns peeping stage.

etc.) has some activity on ramularia and when it is used with the azole (e.g., prothioconazole – Proline) or mefentrifluconazole (Revcare), we can expect reasonably good control. These trials have also clearly shown that from flag leaf fully emerged to the awns

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TILLAGE

Trial locations: Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford, Wicklow
Varieties: Snakebite, Quench, Taberna, Propino
Product applied: 1.0L/ha Siltra
Years: 2012-2015

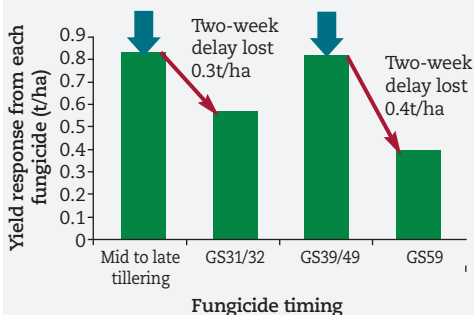


FIGURE 1: Delaying the final fungicide until heads are out will reduce yield.

peeping is the optimum timing for applying the final fungicide, and that waiting for the heads to come fully out and start flowering, i.e., 10-14 days later, can reduce in yields by 0.3-0.4t/ha (Figure 1). Remember, all the fungicides will only delay the onset of ramularia. They will not cure it when it is visible.

Beans

Chocolate spot is the main disease that affects beans and while some will get downy mildew or bean rust, control options are limited. Apply a fungicide at the first signs of disease or in any case at the start of flowering and repeat two to three weeks later.

Signum 0.5-0.75kg/ha can be applied at both timings for good control. Elatus Era also is an option and has approval for a single application on beans at 0.66L/ha.

Table 1: Spring barley fungicide options.

Timings and products

T2 timing: flag leaf to awns visible (GS37-49)

Folpet 1.5L/ha

(Arizona/Stavento/Mirror/Freedom/Kingman)

plus

half rate SDHI/azole mix

(Siltra, Revycare packs, Elatus Era, Macfare Xpro, Decoy packs, etc.)

or

Folpet 1.5L/ha

plus

half azole (Proline, Decoy, Pride etc.)

plus

half rate SDHI (Imtrex)

or half rate strobilurin (Amistar, Comet/Modem)

Teagasc trials consistently show that 50% rates of any azole plus SDHI/strob mix (Table 1) are adequate to control diseases such as rhynchosporium and net blotch.

For downy mildew control, Basfoliar Active and Nutriphite PGA, which are bio-stimulants, both claim some control.

Beans offer growers a good opportunity to control problematic grass weeds such as bromes, ryegrasses and wild oats with graminicide-type herbicides. Use products such as Fusilade Max (1.0-3.0L/ha), Stratos Ultra (1.5-4.0L/ha) or Falcon (0.7-1.5L/ha) before flowering has commenced for best control.

Spring oats

Most crops were drilled in April and these are moving through the growth stages quite quickly.

Growth regulation should be used between the second and third node. Apply CCC 750g/L at 1.5-2.0L/ha. Ceraide, Meddax Max or Moddus are also options here.

Disease

Rusts and mildew require a broad-spectrum fungicide such as Elatus Era, Cello, or a



Apply the final fungicide at heads half emerged.

triazole such as Proline plus a strobilurin, e.g., Comet. Include a specific mildewicide if it is visible in the crop. This should be added to the PGR at GS32-33.

The final fungicide should be applied when the crop is starting to head out. Options are the same as the first spray.

Winter wheat

Disease control

Septoria is very visible in most crops; however, the infection is reasonably well controlled in crops where the leaf 3 and flag leaf fungicides were applied on time.

Time the final fungicide application at early flowering, which is normally three weeks after the flag leaf spray. Options include Provaro, Jade or Protendo Extra at 80-100% rates.

Spring wheat

PGR and disease control

Apply CCC from GS30-31 for maximum effect. Rate is dependent on risk of lodging but will generally be in the range CCC 75% 1.0L/ha. Check product labels for total dose of CCC and/or consider Medax Max or Moddus to GS32 or Terpal at GS37-39. Avoid mepiquat products (Terpal) where the straw is destined for the mushroom industry.

Mildew tends to be the biggest threat in spring wheat, although KWS Helium and WPB Duncan have good resistance, while septoria is usually less of an issue than in winter wheat. Use folpet (Arizona) 1.25-1.5L/ha plus mildewicide plus azole/SDHI mix, e.g., Ascra Expro (70-80% rate) at flag leaf fully emerged followed by a triazole mix at the final timing.