

March Monitor

After a cold wet February hopefully the bright start to March will be the springboard for fieldwork with spring drilling, topdressing and spraying all priorities for action.

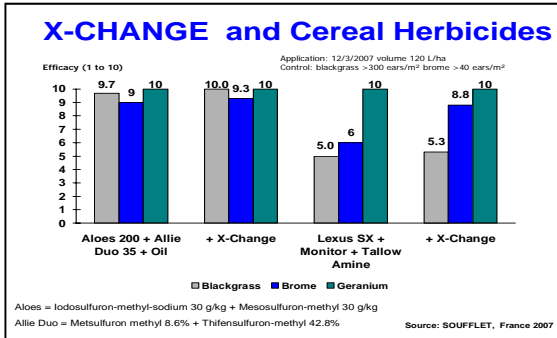


Grass Weeds—Optimising efficacy this Spring.

While the aim must be to control over wintered grass weeds while they are small it is important to ensure the weeds are actively growing before applying any herbicides. Coming out of a protracted cold spell and with wet/waterlogged soils it may take 7-14 days before active growth resumes. Soil temperatures in excess of 6°C are a good indication of potentially good growing conditions. Application is key. Nozzle selection, forward speed, boom height are all critical to optimising herbicide application and retention on the target weeds. In hard water areas some of the



herbicide active ingredient can be bound up by cations in the water reducing the amount of product available to control weeds. Adding water conditioners such as X-Change to the spray tank before mixing the herbicide can reduce the risk of this happening. Where grass weed numbers are high even small improvements in control are significant. Other points to consider for optimum



spring grass weed control are:

1. Always apply Horus, Pacifica and Atlantis with Biopower. Aim to apply to a dry leaf in good drying conditions
2. Avoid applications in a cold period. BUT don't delay too long as a compromise may have to be made between target size and ideal conditions
3. Don't wait for wild oats to germinate in mixed black-grass /wild oat populations. Delaying could reduce your black-grass control
4. Apply Horus, Pacifica and Atlantis as a fine to medium spray, maintaining the correct boom height and travelling at around 12kph—increased spray volume may be required in dense crops/weed patches
5. Ideally Pacifica et al should be applied alone to maximise control. If there is a need to tank mix add only 1 other partner product, If applying with a TO fungicide, do not use chlorothalonil in the mix

Pulse Herbicides—after all the frosts there is potential to produce



some excellent seedbeds for spring pulse crops this year. This will also allow effective use of pre-emergence herbicides. In pulses the use of pre-em herbicides is essential to ensure reliable weed control as the post-emergence options—especially in beans are quite limited. Nirvana, Cirrus, Skirmish, Stomp, Defy and Afalon alone

or in combination can provide a broad spectrum of weed control in peas and beans and this opportunity must not be missed. A dry spring—as last year - may restrict the performance of the pre-em options but they still offer the best solutions for an effective weed control programme.



Thisle control in osrape will also be a priority in March. Products like Galera and Shield must be applied before flower buds are visible and exposed above the leaf canopy. As crops are quite advanced this year spring growth will be fast as the weather warms and the crops will move through stem extension very quickly so the cut-off stage can easily be missed.



Where blackgrass is not an issue in wheat crops Broadway Star is an option offering effective control of wild oats, ryegrass and brome species along with a wide spectrum of broad leaf weeds. Recent trials evidence has also shown that the use of Cogent adjuvant with Broadway Star can further improve overall efficacy and reliability of performance. Your Pro-Cam agronomist will have more details of this new product development.

	Yellow Rust Race Types			Other Races'
	Robigus Race'	Original V6 Race	Solstice Race'	
Robigus	S	R	S	
Hereward	S	R	S	
Solstice	R	R	S	
Humber	R	R	S	
Qplus	R	R	S	
Viscount	R	R	S	
Oakley	R	s	S	
Battalion	R	s	S	
Marksman	R	s	S	
Einstein	R	S	S	
Duxford	R	S	S	
Ketchum	R	S	S	
Gallant	S	S	S	
Glasgow	S	S	S	
Cordiale	R	R	R	S
Grafton	R	R	R	S
JBDiego	R	R	R	S
Alchemy	R	R	R	
Cassius	R	R	R	
Claire	R	R	R	
Gladiator	R	R	R	
Istabraq	R	R	R	
Panorama	R	R	R	
Scout	R	R	R	
Xi19	R	R	R	

Winter Wheat—Yellow Rust

Even though last year may be regarded as a generally low disease year there was an incidence of yellow rust and the continued spread of a new 'Solstice' race that has caused the downgrading of the resistance scores of Solstice, Oakley, Viscount and Duxford among others. Now nearly 60% of the 2010 wheat acreage is expected to be susceptible to a single race of yellow rust—see adjacent table. This widely virulent race, first identified on Solstice in 2008, was common in 2009 and is likely to dominate in 2010. The recent frosts and cold weather are no guarantee that disease inoculum will have been eliminated. So, there is a need to monitor crops closely for signs of early infection and be prepared to include an effective fungicide with rust activity at the T0 timing. At the same time it is important not to lose focus on the other potential main disease threats this season septoria, brown rust and eyespot.

Oilseed Rape—N applications

An optimum canopy size for an oilseed rape crop is thought to be 3.5-4 Green Area Index (GAI) see picture below. This provides



the crop with the appropriate canopy to intercept the maximum amount of light and optimise yield. Creating too big a canopy can actually cause too much inter-plant shading and restrict yields as well as encouraging more disease and early lodging. Generally, oilseed

rape crops established well last autumn and are starting the spring with much larger canopies than was the norm last year. Getting both the timing and quantity of N right this year will be vital to achieve top yields. Your ProCam agronomist will be able to provide detailed guidance but some points to consider are:

- It takes 50 kg/ha N to produce 1 unit of GAI so 175 kg/ha N is required to produce 3.5 units
- N taken up by the crop remains in the crop. Many crops are already around 1-1.5 GAI meaning they already contain 50-75 kg/ha N. Subtracting this + any soil N from 175 and making an allowance for fertiliser efficiency (usually 60%) will provide an estimate of total N required.
- Upload a picture to www.totaloilseedcare.co.uk to get an instant estimate of crop GAI.
- If yield expectations are greater than 3.5 t/ha add an extra 30 kg/ha for each 0.5 t/ha above 3.5 t/ha. High yielding crops need extra N to prolong seed filling.
- Large crops will benefit from delaying N application. Too much N early can over-shoot the canopy size
- OSRape takes up about 3 kg N/day up to flowering after which uptake slows so N cannot be delayed too long! Aim to build the 3.5 GAI canopy by flowering
- Consider applying extra late N to high potential crops. Trials have shown useful benefits to late N applications at the end of flowering
- Don't forget Sulphur. 50-100 kg/ha So3 where deficiency has been diagnosed and especially on light and shallow soils over chalk.

Where extra root development and tillering is required the use



of Quark with a growth regulator e.g. Upright can give an effective boost to crop growth. Late sown crops, second wheats, shy tillering varieties and crops on wet,

poorly structured or light soils could all benefit from Quark applied after the start of active growth and at the early to mid-tillering stages. Quark improves photosynthetic efficiency, and has been shown to increase the efficiency of N usage by the plant.

