

TILLAGE

November 2020

Winter cereals

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Reasonable planting opportunities in October have resulted in the winter cereal area returning to near normal levels this year. Attention in November will turn to weed control and the prevention of barley yellow dwarf virus (BYDV).

BYDV

Before applying an insecticide for the control of BYDV, a number of integrated pest management (IPM) measures should be considered. Firstly, observe if aphids are present in the crop. Check headlands because aphids are three times more likely to land near headlands than further out into the field. Insecticide application should be targeted. The second generation (target) is likely to be present when accumulated daily air temperatures, above a baseline temperature of 3°C, reach T-Sum 170. There are apps available for this calculation and they can also inform if an insecticide application is necessary. If aphids



Inspect crops for aphids before applying an insecticide.

are present, apply an insecticide at the 2-3 leaf stage of the crop.

Early-sown crops will be at a higher risk of BYDV than later-sown crops. Crops sown in late September/early October will normally be at the correct stage (GS1.2-1.3 of the crop) in early to mid November.

While resistance (partial) has been detected among the grain aphid population, pyrethroids will still be effective for the majority of growers.

Multiple applications of pyrethroids should be avoided to prevent the development of full resistance.

After five to seven days, check the efficacy of the insecticide. Presence of wingless aphids may indicate pyrethroid failure. This will vary hugely from field to field, but if resistance is suspected do not reapply pyrethroid, as this will actively select out for resistant aphids. Pyrethroid insecticides include: Sparviero; Karate Zeon; Sumi-Alpha; Decis Protech; and, Lambda.

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 on 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 temp >8°C) is a strong sterile brome option, also for wheat only. It is important to reassess weeds four weeks later and when spring growth commences, as many crops 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.



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

Winter oilseed rape

Much of this year's winter oilseed rape crop was sown later than planned due to harvest delays. Weed and disease control are the priority to ensure crops get the best chance to build good canopies before the winter.

Weeds

Volunteer cereals are one of the most competitive weeds in winter oilseed rape and are problematic this year.

If not already done, volunteered cereals can be controlled with graminicides like Falcon, Fusilade Max and Stratos Ultra.

They will also control other grass weeds like brome species and annual meadow grass, but check the label for rates and latest timings.

Where no herbicide has been applied, the main options will be Belkar for broadleaved weeds or AstroKerb, which offers excellent grass weed control and some broadleaf weed control.

Salsa is available for the control of charlock but needs small actively growing weeds for best effect.

Disease

Phoma is common in the autumn and once the



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

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.

Teagasc tillage podcast



Teagasc produces a weekly podcast, called *The Tillage Edge*, which discusses all the latest news and advice which are relevant to tillage farmers. Topics include crop agronomy, seasonal updates, grain markets, machinery, finance, etc. These podcasts can be found on the Teagasc website, Apple Podcasts, Spotify or through the QR code (left).

Grass weed survey



The Teagasc Enable Conservation Tillage (ECT) project is carrying out an online survey to get farmer insight on grass weed resistance management strategies. The survey

will help to develop control strategies and the best supporting advisory messages for the future. It takes about 10 minutes to complete. Scan the QR code with your phone's camera here to complete the survey.



Complete the grass weed survey now.

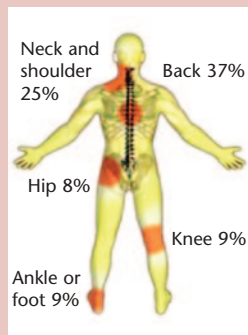
HEALTH & SAFETY

Prevent musculoskeletal disorders

Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) are injuries of muscles, ligaments, tendons, cartilage, discs and bones. A study among Irish farmers found that 54% reported an MSD, making them the most prevalent occupational health problem. All MSDs, including so-called 'slipped discs', are painful and need rehabilitation. Preventing MSDs requires your input as follows: (1) use equipment and design facilities that eliminate or reduce the need for lifting, carrying, pushing or pulling; (2) always assess a load before lifting; and, (3) keep a tidy and well-lit

farmyard to prevent trips and falls.

The EU Occupational Safety and Health Agency (EUOSHA) campaign Lighten the Load 2020-22 has commenced. Further information at: <https://healthy-workplaces.eu/en>.



MSD injuries of Irish farmers.