Teagasc
Advisory
Newsletter

TILLAGE

May 2021

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Winter wheat

New control products are now available.

The recent introduction of a new azole, Revysol, and the new Quinone inside Inhibitor (Qil), Inatreq, are welcome additions to disease control in wheat. Both products have performed well against septoria in Teagasc trials. However, both are at risk of resistance and should only be used when required, at the rate required and in mixtures with a multisite like Folpet. Older products (Ascra Xpro, Elatus Era, Librax, etc.) still have a role in disease control, but the foundation of good disease control is still applying products at the correct timings.

The correct timing of the leaf 1 (flag leaf) fungicide can make the difference between success or failure in the control of septoria. Aim to apply an azole/SDHI/Qil combination at 80-100% rate with Folpet on a fully emerged leaf 1 (**Table 1**).

Table 1: Winter wheat fungicide programme.

Timing	Product
Leaf 3	Folpet 1.5L/ha plus 80-100% (azole/SDHI/Qil)
Leaf 1 (flag leaf)	Folpet 1.5L/ha plus 80-100% (azole/SDHI/Qil)
Start of flowering	Azole mix

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Winter barley

The latest stage to safely use a plant growth regulator (PGR) is the awns peeping stage. Terpal 1.2-1.5L/ha or Cerone 0.6-0.7L/ha are options but watch latest timing. The final fungicide needs to be timed at the awns emerging stage. It should consist of an azole plus an SDHI/strob and 1.5L/ha of Folpet to assist in the control of ramularia.

Winter oats

The final fungicide timing in winter oats is targeting rust and mildew to prolong green leaf area. Suitable product mixes include an azole/SDHI mix, e.g., Elatus Era 0.75-0.8L/ha or Proline 0.5L plus Amistar/Comet 0.5L, plus or minus a mildewicide.

Teagasc event

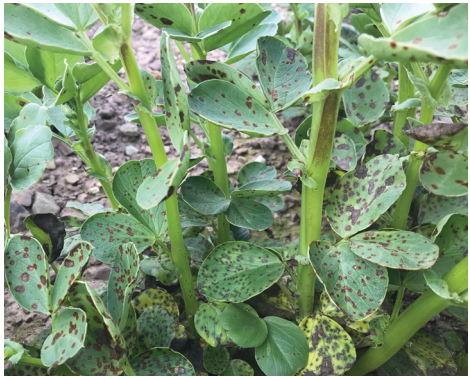
The next Teagasc Crops Agronomy webinar covering current crop issues will take place on: Tuesday May 4, 2021 from11.30am-12.30pm.
Register for the event on the Teagasc website at: https://www.teagasc.ie/news--events/national-events/events/cropagronomywebinar4.php.

Table 2: Spring barley fungicide programme.

Timing	Target diseases	Programme
Tillering <GS30	Rhyncho Net blotch Brown rust Mildew	Mixtures Azole plus strob/SDHI Mildewicide where required
Awn emergence GS39-49	Rhyncho Net blotch Brown rust Mildew Ramularia	Folpet 1.5L/ha plus mixtures Azole plus strob/SDHI Mildewicide where required

Spring barley disease control

Applying a fungicide at the correct timing is the foundation for successful disease control in spring barley (**Table 2**). Teagasc research indicates that applying the first fungicide at mid/late tillering and a second at awn emergence can result in a yield increase of over 0.5t/ha in a high disease pressure year over delayed timings. Use a mix of active ingredients that target the fungus at no more than a half rate of each of the individual components. Include Folpet 1.5L/ha to assist in the control of ramularia.



Beans

The key to bean disease control is early spraying when the disease is first seen or expected. Chocolate spot is the main threat but downy mildew and sometimes rust can rob yield. Apply Signum at 0.5-0.75L/ha or Amistar 0.5L/ha plus tebuconazole 0.75L/ha at the start of flowering.

Apply fungicide to beans before flowering to control chocolate spot.

Teagasc tillage podcast

For all the latest tillage news, the Teagasc tillage podcast, *The Tillage Edge*, is available on the Teagasc website, Apple Podcasts, Spotify or through the QR code shown.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Silage safety

May is the month when grass growth ramps up and silage is made. It is a high-risk month and it is important to give safety your first priority. Silage making involves a lot of machinery movement, both in farmyards and on public roads. Make sure that there is a clear view for drivers at entrances/exits to public roads. Warn oncoming traffic of dangers, but warning devices such as signs and bollards should not be placed on a road surface. Farmers and contractors should discuss safety matters in advance. Say "stop" immediately if any dangerous work takes place. Keep family members, particularly children and elderly farmers, well away from moving machinery. Ensure that farmyards are tidy to allow efficient machinery movement. Speed kills – make sure that machinery movement occurs at a steady pace.

Ensure safety with silage.

Observe product buffer zones to protect our water.

Buffer zones

May is a busy month for the application of plant protection products (PPPs). It is important to adhere to the buffer zones on product labels to protect our water. Buffer zones are applicable to all surface waterbodies and can vary in size (1m to 70m), but 1m applies in all cases regardless of application rate. The buffer zone on a product label is applicable when the product is used at the full rate using standard flat fan nozzles. Examples of buffer zones on commonly used products include:

- Proline (3786) – 5m;
- Elatus Era (5379) – 10m; and,
- Questar (6465) – 30m.

There are only three instances where the mandatory pesticide buffer zone can be reduced.

1. When using Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)-approved drift-reducing nozzles.
2. When using reduced application rates.
3. When using DAFM-approved drift-reducing nozzles and reduced application rates.

The Surface Water Tool for Reducing the Impact of Pesticides in the Environment (STRIPE) allows farmers to reduce the mandatory buffer zones associated with pesticides when they use spray drift-reducing technology. It is important to refer to the Pesticide Registration and Control Divisions' (PCRD) website to establish the required buffer zone when using STRIPE. See: https://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/waterprotection/stripe-surfacewatertoolforreducingtheimpactofpesticidesintheenvironment/.

It should also be noted that statutory 'no-use' zones (called safeguard zones) apply around all drinking water abstraction points (public and private boreholes and rivers/lakes), ranging from 5m to 200m, depending on the size and extent of the supply. These safeguard zones cannot be reduced using STRIPE. It is also important to note that under the Nitrates Directive, no chemical fertiliser can be applied to land within 2m of any surface waters.

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