

# TILLAGE

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## Spring barley

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*If you think you have resistant weeds, get them tested.*

### Weed control

If weed control has been delayed, it is essential to use higher herbicide rates. Larger weeds are harder to kill, and using high rates helps reduce the risk of developing herbicide-resistant weeds. Herbicide resistance is an increasing issue for spring barley growers. Sulfonylurea herbicides (like Cameo, Ally, Harmony, etc.) have reduced effectiveness in some cases.

Ensure you:

- always use an alternative mode of action; and,

### Think you have resistant weeds?

If you suspect you have resistant weeds on your farm, contact your local tillage advisor who can arrange resistance testing of your suspect weed.



**CATCH CROPS.  
UP TO**

**€229/ha**

is available to  
plant catch crops  
under Farming  
For Water EIP.

■ make sure the alternative product you're using has activity on the target weed. For example, if you suspect resistance in chickweed, don't rely on sulfonylureas alone. Use a partner product like fluroxypyr (e.g., Hurler 0.75L/ha) for better control.

Disease control

The average yield response from a two-spray fungicide programme in Teagasc

trials is 1.3t/ha but can range from 0.5-2.75t/ha, depending on season. With the exception of RGT Planet, current spring barley varieties have excellent resistance to disease but sowing dates and weather conditions need to be factored in when deciding product choice and rate (Table 1). Oak Park trials have shown two half-rate fungicides (combined product) will give the maximum economic return. The first fungicide should be timed before GS30.

Table 1: Spring barley disease control strategies 2025.

Target disease	Early/mid tillering (GS21-23)	Mid/late tillering (GS23-29)	Awn emergence (GS45-49) Targeting ramularia
High disease pressure, e.g., RGT Planet	PTZ (Proline or generic) 70% + Comet 200/ LS Pyrac 0.6L or Imtrex 0.7L	-	Folpet 1.5L + Revystar XL 1.0L, Macfare Xpro 0.8L, Elatus Era 0.65L, Avestel 0.7L, Balaya 1.0L + Imperis 1.0L, etc.
All other varieties	-	PTZ (Proline or generic) 50% + Comet 200/ LS Pyrac 0.5L	

Winter wheat

Yellow rust was problematic for many growers in April but septoria will be the priority at the flag leaf timing on winter wheat. Accurate timing and alternation of products from the leaf 3 applications are crucial to management of septoria. A fully emerged leaf 1 (flag leaf) and leaf 3



Ensure flag is fully emerged before applying fungicide.

(T1) are the key timings. Research has shown that +/- seven days of a fully emerged flag leaf can make a significant difference in high disease pressure situations.

Folpet should be the first product into the tank (Table 2). As a multi-site fungicide, it not only helps with disease control but also plays a key role in slowing fungicide resistance. It is important to alternate fungicides to protect their effectiveness:

- if you used Revystar or Ascra Xpro at the leaf 3 timing, then switch to an Inatreq-based product at the leaf 1 timing; or,
- if you used Inatreq at the leaf 3 timing, use a different product like Revystar or Ascra Xpro for the flag leaf application.

**Important reminder:** you can only use Inatreq-based products (Univoq, Aquino, Peacoq, Questar, Jessico One) once per crop – this is a legal requirement.

Table 2: Product choice for control of septoria at flag leaf timing.

Product used at leaf 3 timing	Flag leaf
Revystar or Ascra Xpro	Folpet 1.5L + Inatreq (Univoq, Aquino, Peacoq, Questar) 2.0L + Azole 100% or Inatreq (Jessico One) 1.7L + Jettano 1.0L
Inatreq-based product	Folpet 1.5L + Revystar XL 1.5L or Ascra Xpro 1.5L

## 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. Teagasc experiments on the control of ramularia show that the best timing comes between GS45 (boots swollen) and GS49 (first awns visible). An application of Folpet at GS59 (ear emergence complete) did not



*Awns emerging is a crucial timing for control of ramularia.*

contribute to control. Revystar, Macfare Xpro, Folpet and prothioconazole-based products give some control of ramularia in Teagasc experiments when applied before heading of barley.

## Farming for Water EIP

Funding of up to €9,160 per farm is available to plant catch crops in Priority Areas for Action under the Farming for Water European Innovation Partnership (EIP). The key environmental benefits of catch crops are reducing nitrate leaching, soil erosion and phosphorus (P) run-off. The scheme requirements include:

1. Establish a catch crop using non-inversion techniques – ploughing is not allowed.
2. The minimum area is 0.5ha – the maximum area for payment is 40ha.
3. No penalties if less or no area sown – paid on the area declared after sowing.
4. No dual funding with Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) catch crops.

*Catch crops can benefit your farm and the environment.*



5. ACRES-approved seed and seed rates to be used – all invoices/seed receipts to be retained on farm for five years (separate to ACRES invoices/seed receipts).

### Payment rate:

- after spring crops – €229/ha/year (September 1 to January 1); and,
- after winter crops – €173/ha/yr (August 1 to September 30).

For further details, contact your Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme (ASSAP) or tillage advisor.

## Teagasc tillage podcast

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



## Machinery safety

Most injuries on farms are caused by being struck by a farm vehicle. Blind spots exist around vehicles – particularly at close range. Be alert driving and go at a suitable speed. Give consideration to where vehicles and persons may be, particularly children. Implement segregation measures

between vehicles and persons.

Speak positively about dangers to children and young persons. Speak to your machinery contractors about safety. Make sure that PTO and power shafts are adequately covered.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY