



PROCAM
AGRONOMY THAT DELIVERS™

Technical Update
June '17

JUNE JOTTINGS

June is typically the time for the last agronomic inputs to combinable crops. The decisions this month can have a significant effect on final yield and quality.



A surge in temperatures at the end of May combined with some much needed rain provided the conditions for a rapid increase in cereal growth. Wheat crops, held back by the cool, dry conditions for much of April and early May shot forward with ears 'breaking boot' almost as the T2 flag leaf sprays were being applied. Despite the potentially close interval between the applications it is still important to ensure that the ears are well protected with a 'T3' fungicide.

This is typically the last major point of agronomic input to the wheat crop. Most grain fill occurs post-anthesis or

'flowering' so maintaining a healthy crop canopy from ear emergence is critical to optimise yield performance.

Grain fill occurs at a rate of approximately 0.2 t/ha per day. The ear alone contributes around 20% to total grain fill so keeping the crop healthy and disease free for as long as possible is clearly advantageous.

Wet weather and high humidity around the flowering period are key factors to encourage the 'ear blight' complex of diseases. These largely fusarium species directly affect grain yield and quality but more importantly produce toxic metabolites known as mycotoxins. High mycotoxin levels reduce quality and marketability. The only way of reducing the mycotoxin risk is through appropriate fungicide application.

Fungicides must be applied prior to early flowering for optimum efficacy. Triazole fungicides based on prothioconazole, tebuconazole, bromuconazole and metconazole are effective options—at a minimum 50% dose. In high disease pressure, and if yellow or brown rust is active, total fungicide loading will need to be increased.

Including an adjuvant such as Mica and/or phosphite growth promoters can enhance the activity of the ear fungicides. Make sure you give your crops the best cover to optimise grain-fill and grain quality this season.



Come to our
Open Days

22nd & 28th June 2017

The South and West ProCam team would like to invite you to our variety and crop production open events on:

22nd June at 4.00pm at Sutton Benger, Chippenham SN15 4RU and 28th June at 10.00 am at Little Stoke, Ipsden, OX10 6AZ

These events will give you an insight into our latest work on crop nutrition and protection and the ProCam seed team will lead discussions on the latest variety introductions.

At each event there will be the opportunity to have your moisture meter/probe calibrated free of charge - provided this is booked in advance.

If you would like to attend either event please email jessicahunt@procam.co.uk or contact the ProCam office on 01672 539591.

WINTER OSR

HARVEST AID 2017



Oilseed rape crops that have avoided damage from cabbage stem flea beetle and pigeons are even and consistent in pod maturity across the field. Unfortunately pests and weather have impacted on many others causing wide variation in flowering and consequently pod set. In either case the use of pod sealants as crops start to ripen will help optimise seed recovery and yield at harvest. Pod sealants such as Mesh can typically gain around 400 kg/ha of seed and even more in harsh conditions. Improvements in seed return of this order were found even in trials with anti-pod shatter varieties.

Mesh is a mixture of styrene and butadiene polymers whose droplets coalesce as they dry to form a film on the pods. The target for the pod sealant is the top pod seam where the droplet tacks along this seam giving it added strength. Mesh is designed to be very flexible to cope with natural pod expansion and contraction. The best seed saving time for application of Mesh is as soon as the pods reach full size and are still green and pliable. Relatively few pod sealants are applied at this optimum time. Typically most are included at the 'convenience' timing with the crop desiccant e.g. glyphosate. Trials by DeSangosse have shown that pod shatter losses were reduced by 12% when the timing of the pod sealant was brought forward by 3 weeks to the optimum stand alone timing. Mesh dries quickly on the pods after application and is effective for up to 12 weeks.

Advantages of applying mesh at the earliest full size green pod timing are:

- Greatest protection from forthcoming difficult weather.
- Maximum protection of pod integrity minimising seed loss.
- Reduced in-field losses due to inter-crop movement and pod expansion (wet) and contraction (heat).
- A degree of protection of tramlines by crop being gently laid whilst still green. Yields from within the tramlines are around 30-35% lower. Mesh significantly reduces these losses and saves yield.

With Mesh even a high number of the side knife pods stay intact. Normally many of these pods split when cut. Mesh can also be used on oilseed rape crops intended for swathing and on pulses, especially beans where the range of pod and seed maturity can be very variable. Talk to your ProCam agronomist about the optimum Mesh timing for your crops.

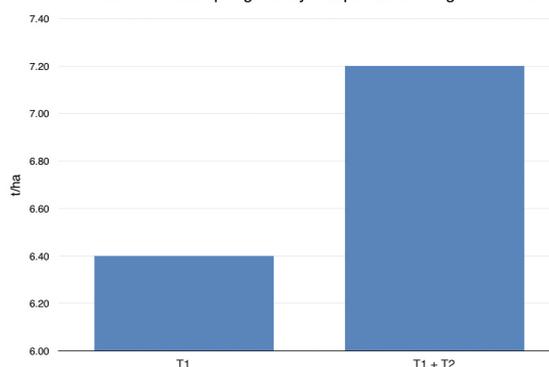
SPRING BARLEY

T2 FUNGICIDES



The warm weather has accelerated the growth of spring barley with many crops reaching GS39 - flag leaf emerged stage in early June. This will be the time to consider late pgrs as the cut off timing of awns emerging will be fast approaching. This will also be the timing for the final fungicide application. Disease levels may be currently quite low but in most years there is value in applying a flag leaf or T2 fungicide to spring barley.

ProCam 4Cast Spring Barley Response to Fungicide 2016



ProCam's 4Cast system - an analysis of actual farm data has consistently shown that spring barley crops receiving at least 2 fungicide applications produce significantly improved yields over crops with a single T1 application. In 2016 the 2 sprays produced, on average, an extra 0.5 t/ha over a single spray. This advantage is seen irrespective of drill date. Later sown crops continued to respond to a 2 spray programme compared with those receiving a single application.

SPRING BEANS

INSECT PEST 2017



Spring bean crops are flowering and will soon set pods. Black bean aphids are already being found in crops and will require attention. As pods form the focus is also on bruchid beetle whose larvae can seriously damage bean quality. Adults fly to beans during flowering and lay eggs on developing pods. The larvae bore through the pod and into the seed where they feed until mature. A pyrethroid insecticide approved for use during flowering should be applied using angled nozzles at early pod set following 2 consecutive days when the maximum daily temperature has reached 20 °C and repeated 7-10 days later. Forecasts of optimum spray timing can be obtained from your ProCam agronomist and the Syngenta Bruchidcast on: <https://www.syngenta.co.uk/BruchidCast>