



EARLY AUTUMN POINTERS

Some delays to field work in September but cereal drilling is underway and progressing well. Following the drill the priority will be to optimise the autumn herbicide programme.



Variable rainfall and sporadic heavy showers across the UK throughout September have created vastly different regional soil conditions and caused some delays in progress with field work. Although where grass weed control is a key issue there is an obvious trend to push drilling dates back. However, the main focus will be on completing the planned autumn cereal drilling this month.

Following closely behind the drill will be the requirement to control weeds. In most cases whether the target is blackgrass, ryegrass, brome or meadow grass and broadleaf weeds the weed control will rely on soil acting residual herbicides. These need fine, firm seedbeds with few or no clods to work at their best. Weather so far this autumn looks to be producing the cool moist soil conditions essential to getting good herbicide activity. The final part of the process is to ensure attention to detail with the application of the herbicides to the target i.e. the soil. All steps must be taken to maximise their efficacy and minimise spray drift. Key points to note:

- The optimum timing of pre-emergence herbicides is within 48 hours of drilling
- Ensure sprayer boom height is at 50cm. This allows for the best coverage of the soil whilst minimising drift.
- Check wind speed - double the wind speed doubles the drift. Optimum 3-6kph

- High forward speeds increase turbulence behind the boom. Keep speeds below 12kph
- Use drift reduction nozzles e.g. air induction to produce a coarser droplet
- Apply at 100-200 l/ha. Recent application trials carried out by Syngenta indicate better herbicide performance from higher water volumes by producing less drift and more herbicide hitting the target. A practical water volume will need to be selected to suit the individual farm situation by balancing areas to be sprayed and available spray days
- Soil acting adjuvants can improve herbicide performance, reduce drift and reduce the risk of crop damage from the herbicide 'stack'

ProCam has introduced a new adjuvant specifically designed to improve the performance of residual herbicides. Velomax is a unique blend of oils, tall oil fatty acids and alkoxylated alcohols. Velomax improves distribution of the herbicide on the soil surface, helping to maintain a more even loading of active ingredient in the areas where weed seeds are germinating. It also helps to hold the residual products in the 'active zone' for longer.

Independent trials at Nottingham University showed a significant improvement in blackgrass control when Velomax was included with a typical pre-emergence flufenacet/DFF/prosulfocarb herbicide 'stack' compared with the same mix used alone or with a straight methylated seed oil.

Another key benefit from including Velomax with the residual herbicide application is reduction in spray drift and improvement in the herbicide deposition on the soil. Reductions in the droplet size range have been recorded with both flat fan and air induction nozzles. Some of the biggest improvements in spray quality were seen with the nozzles producing the larger droplet sizes.

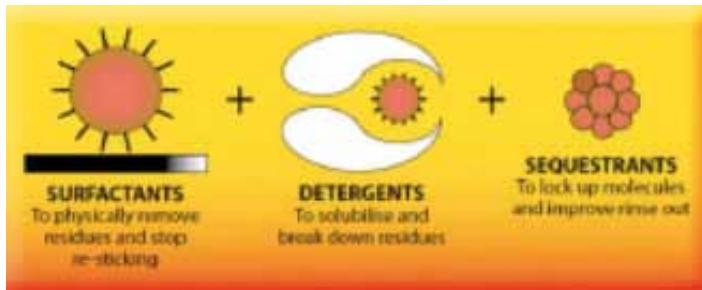
The ability of Velomax to 'hold' residual herbicides in the upper layers of the soil typically reduces the risk of crop phytotoxicity, especially where heavy rain follows soon after application. The 3-way benefits from Velomax make it an essential element to include with your residual herbicide programme this autumn.

NEUTRALIZE

SPRAYER HYGIENE AUTUMN 2017



Sprayer hygiene is a constant concern when switching between spray recommendations on different crop types. Failure to thoroughly clean and remove chemical residues from sprayer tanks and equipment can cause crop damage and yield loss if even small quantities of the 'wrong' product are applied to sensitive plants. Poor sprayer cleaning can also result in blocked nozzles and filters and potential damage to the sprayer and its components.



To help avoid these problems ProCam has introduced a new and innovative tank cleaner to its product range. Neutralise utilises 3 modes of action that work synergistically to lock up harmful chemical residues and thoroughly clean sprayers both internally and externally. It breaks down chemical residues, specifically oily residues, allowing them to be removed from the tank. Neutralise effectively removes residues from a broad range of herbicides, including the SUs. It can also be used for external cleaning of sprayers and tractors to remove dirt, spray residues and chemical staining. Neutralise means only one product is needed for all sprayer decontamination scenarios.

SLUG CONTROL

ENHANCED STEWARDSHIP 2017



Slug pellet labels remain unchanged for 2017. However enhanced stewardship guidelines have been introduced this autumn to help safeguard the continued use of metaldehyde.

The main change is that no pellets should be allowed to fall within a minimum of 10 metres of any field boundary or water course.

Ferric phosphate e.g. IronMax Pro is an effective alternative option to metaldehyde. Check with your ProCam agronomist for all the slug control options and for the full stewardship guidelines for autumn 2017.

BYDV

APHIDS AUTUMN 2017



Aphid numbers have been increasing in the suction traps run by the Rothamsted Insect Survey. This gives a clear indication that this year's aphid migration is underway and particularly so for the bird cherry-oat aphid (*Rhopalosiphum padi*). This aphid is the main vector for BYDV. Early sown and emerging crops will be at risk of infection. Any aphids locating unprotected crops will continue to develop and spread at temperatures above 3°C. Crops sown with Deter treated seed will be protected for around 8 weeks after drilling. Early sown non-deter treated crops should be sprayed with a pyrethroid at the 2-3 leaf stage with a topup application likely to be needed in late October. For October sown non-deter treated crops an insecticide will typically be targeted at the late October/early November timing. With the emphasis on pre-emergence herbicide applications it is all too easy to overlook the post-emergent BYDV protection.



BYDV is also spread by the grain aphid (*Sitobion avenae*) and pyrethroid resistance has been identified within its populations. This aphid is a far less significant vector of BYDV and numbers trapped to date in the Insect Survey are low. However, numbers of grain aphid need to be monitored. It is thought they can contribute to later autumn infections.

Your ProCam agronomist will have the latest details of aphid numbers and BYDV risk this autumn.

SPRAYING CPD

OPERATOR ROADSHOWS 2017/18

NR^oSO
National Register Of Sprayer Operators

As in previous years ProCam will be running a series of Spray Operator Roadshows during the autumn and winter as part of the on-going NR^oSO training programme.

Details of dates and venues will be available from your ProCam agronomist and will be included in future newsletters. Attendance at one of the roadshows qualifies for 10 CPD points.