



PROCAM
AGRONOMY THAT DELIVERS™

Technical Update
Nov '17

MID AUTUMN POINTERS

Storms have caused some disruption to field work in October but crops have generally established well in a mild autumn to date. Some key agronomic decisions need to be addressed before winter takes hold.



The relatively warm and moist soil conditions for much of October have generally encouraged rapid crop emergence - even from later sowings. Typically, the conditions have also encouraged speedy weed emergence. Despite good effects this year from cultural control e.g. stale seedbeds combined with robust pre-emergence herbicide programmes, a follow up post-emergence treatment may need to be considered to achieve the necessary high levels of control.

Where a sequential programme of residual herbicides is planned it is important to follow up the first - ideally pre emergence - treatment within at least 2-3 weeks. The effectiveness of the available residual herbicides is greatly reduced on emerged weeds and certainly once they have moved beyond the 1-2 leaf stage.

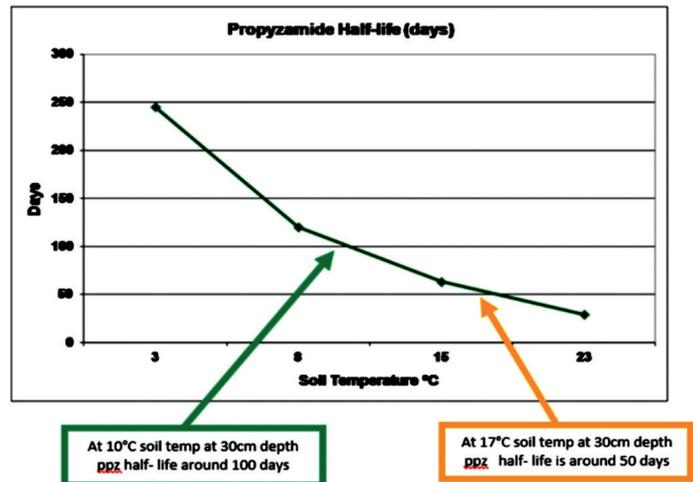
If the grass weeds, particularly blackgrass, move beyond this size then a contact herbicide based on meso/iodosulfuron e.g. Horus or pyroxsulam could be considered in winter wheat. These too need to be targeted at relatively small, actively growing weeds for optimum efficacy. Trials have shown a steep decline in activity when these products are applied to tillering weeds compared with applications at the 1-3 leaf stage. The value, use and choice of these products will also depend on the target weeds and their resistance status.

Pyroxsulam is an effective option where brome is the particular grass weed target.

Apply contact herbicides using the appropriate adjuvant to a dry leaf allowing at least 2 hours drying time for optimum effect. Apply at a forward speed of no more than 12 km/h and ensure optimum boom height. A residual partner applied with the contact herbicide will support and supplement its activity e.g. flufenacet +/- picolinafen, pendimethalin/DFF or prosulfocarb.

As November arrives so does the pressure to apply carbetamide and propyzamide to oilseed rape crops and complete the autumn weed control programme.

Ideally application of these products should be delayed until soil temperatures at 30cm are at least 10°C and falling. These herbicides will obviously work in warmer soil temperatures - if moisture is available - but their persistence will be compromised as illustrated below.



Dow Agrosciences operate a soil monitoring service. Into the latter stages of October this showed soil temperatures across the UK were well above 10°C. Guidance on soil temperatures in your area can be found on the Dow website: <http://uk.dowagro.com/> and via your ProCam agronomist.

OILSEED RAPE

LIGHT LEAF SPOT 2017/18



The latest Light Leaf Spot (LLS) forecast for the 2017/18 season has been issued by Rothamsted. This can be viewed via the dedicated link: bit.ly/Leafspot The overall risk of LLS infection is generally reduced from previous years in some regions although it remains high in some northern areas.

The LLS infection pattern last season was unusual. A large winter inoculum and epidemic was seen in most crops but a long, dry spring limited transfer and infection of pods.

As pod incidence is used as a measure of the inoculum risk to following crops the overall risk has been lowered but rainfall in August and September created some regional hotspots.

AHDB funded research has shown that wind-blown spores are produced through the summer and autumn. This explains why early-sown crops are at higher risk of LLS infection. Where LLS is found or a high infection risk identified an autumn, typically November, fungicide treatment will be an essential starting point for effective disease suppression.

Although the overall risk may be lower this autumn the risk in any individual crop still needs to be assessed taking account of sowing date, varietal tolerance and fungicide efficacy. Your ProCam agronomist will have the latest details of the likely LLS infection threat in your oilseed rape crops this autumn.

CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE

PROCAM EVENTS 2017



As the interest in Conservation Agriculture continues to grow ProCam have organised another series of conferences this autumn to follow on from last autumn's successful events. There are three opportunities this autumn to learn more about this new farming concept:

15th November 2017 - A day with Joel Williams

- This conference aims to build on the science discussed at last year's conference and create practical programs for use on-farm.

16th November 2017 - Conservation Agriculture Conference

- A series of experts will discuss the future role of CA for sustainable and profitable food production in the UK.

29th November 2017 - A day with Frederic Thomas

- Frederic is a farmer with over 20 years' experience of developing a practical and economical approach to this system of farming.

All three events will take place at: The Arts & Heritage Centre, Old Town Hall, High Street, Baldock SG7 6AR and will cost £38 + VAT (BASE members £15 + VAT).

For more details and/or to book a place at any of these events email: agevents@procam.co.uk, contact Richard Harding on 07854 020395.

Essex Young Farmers Whitbreads Barn, Whitbreads Lane, Chatham Green, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 3LQ	15th December 2017
Midloe Grange, Rectory Lane, Southoe, St Neots, PE19 5YD	18th December 2017
Axe & Compass, Carlow Road, Ringstead, Northants, NN14 4DW	22nd December 2017
Wilbraham's Memorial Hall Angle End, Great Wilbraham, CB21 5JG	9th January 2018
Rothamsted Conference Centre, Harpenden, AL5 2JQ	10th January 2018
Chesfield Downs Golf & Country Club, Jack's Hill, Graveley, SG4 7EQ	12th January 2018
Hintlesham Golf Club, Hintlesham, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP8 3JG	15th January 2018
Hyde Hall, Sandon, Buntingford, Herts, SG9 0RU	16th January 2018

NRoSO Workshops Winter 2017/18

Dates and venues for ProCam's Spray Operator Interactive Workshops have been arranged and are shown in the adjacent table. This workshop is part of the farming and crop protection industry's Voluntary Initiative to minimise the environmental impacts of pesticides. The workshop will attract 10 CPD points for NRoSO members and 5 CPD points for BASIS members.

This year's events will focus on four main sections covering:

- Current Issues
- Water Protection
- Application
- Top-Tips & Technology

The workshop will last for half a day at a cost of £35 + VAT per person and includes training, course material, certificate and lunch.

If you wish to attend one of the ProCam NRoSO Workshops email: agevents@procam.co.uk or contact the ProCam office on 01763 261592.