



PROCAM
AGRONOMY THAT DELIVERS™

Technical Update
Nov '17

MID AUTUMN POINTERS

Storms have caused some disruption to field work 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.

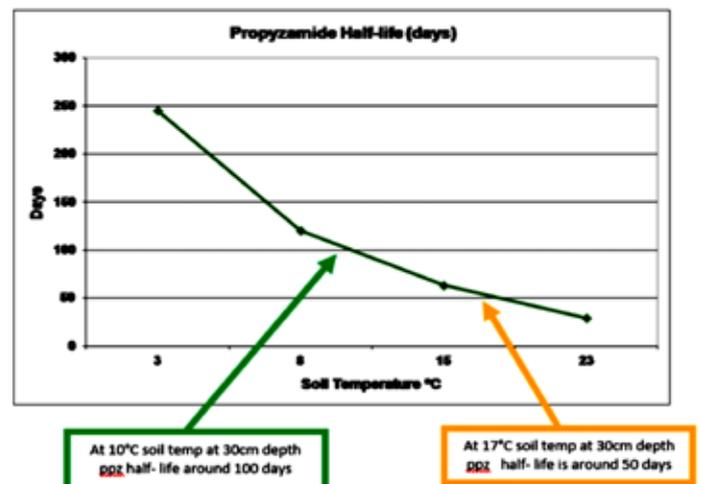
If the grass weeds, particularly blackgrass, move beyond this size then a contact herbicide based on meso/iodosulfuron e.g. Horus or pyroxsulam could be considered in winter wheat. These too need to be targeted at relatively small, actively growing weeds for optimum efficacy. Trials have shown a steep 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.



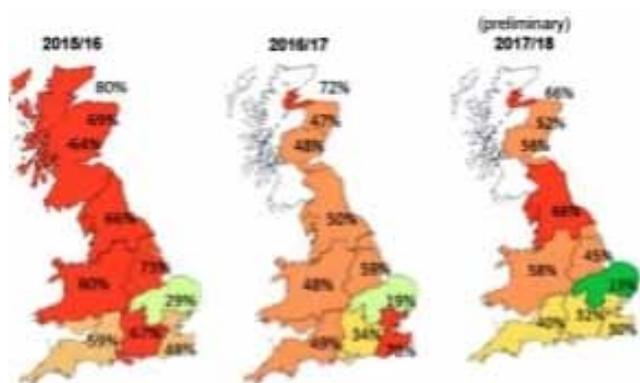
Dow Agrosciences operate a soil monitoring service. Into the latter stages of October this showed soil temperatures across the UK were well above 10°C. Guidance on soil temperatures in your area can be found on the Dow website: www.uk.dowagro.com and via your ProCam agronomist.

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 As can be seen from the graphic below the summary of the overall risk of LLS infection is 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.

LLS has overtaken Phoma in recent years as the predominant disease causing yield loss in oilseed rape crops Your ProCam agronomist will have the latest details of the likely LLS infection threat in your oilseed rape crops this autumn.

EFA CHANGES

BPS YEAR 2018



A reminder that the European Agriculture Commission has updated the 'greening' rules for 2018. The main change, which will come fully into effect from the 1st January 2018 include a complete ban on the use of plant protection products on the Ecological Focus Area (EFA) options.

This will apply to fallow land, EFA catch and cover crops and EFA nitrogen-fixing crops. N.B. These rules apply from the time of sowing the crop, even if this is before the 1st of January 2018. It also applies to seed dressings. This means that herbicides cannot be applied to autumn sown legumes e.g. winter beans if these are intended to count towards the farm's EFA requirements.

An alternative option to the nitrogen fixing crops (NFC) could be Field Margins. This EFA option has been extended to include a minimum 1m field margin around all fields - not just adjacent to water courses. Every 1000m of field margin equates to 0.9 ha of EFA.

Hedges also can be an EFA option and now includes trees in a line. The EFA value remains the same - every 1000m of hedge is worth 1ha of EFA as long as both sides are under management. Access to one side only halves the EFA value. More details on the EFA options and the changes for 2018 are available from your ProCam agronomist.

GLYPHOSATE

UPDATE OCTOBER 2017



The fate of glyphosate remains in the balance. On the 25th October The Agriculture Commission Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food & Feed (SCoPAFF) did not vote on the re-licensing of glyphosate for a further 10 years because an indicative vote showed that a qualified majority would not be achieved.

The vote on the 25th October followed an earlier one of the EU Parliament in Strasbourg, where MEPs called for an end to glyphosate use by 2020.

It is now understood that the Commission is to table a proposal for a 5 year renewal of approval of glyphosate and test this with member states at a SCoPAFF meeting on the 9th of November.