



PROCAM
AGRONOMY THAT DELIVERS™

Technical Update
Nov '18

MID AUTUMN POINTERS

There has been generally good progress with drilling and field work through October. There remain a few key agronomic decisions to be resolved before winter sets in.



Despite some heavy rain events during October a late spell of fine, dry weather created good conditions for cereal drilling and application of residual herbicides; allowing most to be completed in good order.

To achieve the high levels of grass weed control required to minimise any effect on yield, follow up post emergence treatments may need to be considered. Any sequential application, ideally, needs to be applied within 2 – 3 weeks of the first application and preferably before any subsequent weed emergence. The efficacy of most residual herbicides is compromised once weeds have moved beyond the 1 – 2 leaf stage.

Factoring in a contact herbicide based on meso/iodosulfuron or pyroxsulam could also be an option in winter wheat. These too will need to be targeted at small, actively growing weeds. The choice of product will need to be based on the weed spectrum and their anticipated or known resistance status.

Numbers of the Aphid vectors of BYDV have been above the 10 year average for most of October. The risk of infection is much reduced in crops emerging in the latter half of October but final infection levels will depend on weather conditions through November and the rest of the winter. With so much focus on pre-emergence herbicide application insecticide applications for BYDV can often be overlooked. Check with your ProCam agronomist on the BYDV risk to your crops.

Following on from weed control in cereals, one of the next agronomic challenges is to optimise the grass weed control in the 'break' crops e.g. oilseed rape and winter beans. At this time of year the focus is mainly on optimising the performance of propyzamide and carbetamide in these crops. Soil temperature and moisture are critical to getting the best from these residual herbicides. Soil moisture is needed to distribute residual herbicides evenly into the top 5cm or weed germination zone of the soil. Soil temperatures must be cooling – around 10°C at 30cm and falling. At these temperatures the half life of propyzamide is 100 days but at 15°C it is reduced to 60 days. So, in cooler soils the herbicide lasts longer, providing greater activity on germinating weeds.

To help optimise propyzamide performance Corteva Agriculture have launched an online tool to aid the decision on herbicide timing: <http://uk.dowagro.com/oilseed-rape-to-spray-or-not-to-spray>

Based on your individual postcode the tool will provide a simple 'traffic light guide' for the optimum application timing. Obviously, this guidance has to be assessed along with weather conditions to finalise the application window.

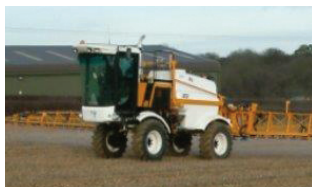
Although soil moisture is important for residual herbicides to be effective, soils must not be saturated or waterlogged. Care must be taken to avoid any risk of contamination to water, all aspects of good water stewardship must be followed. In particular do not apply to soils where drains are running nor when rainfall is forecast within 48 hours.

Propyzamide and carbetamide may be applied in frosty conditions but avoid applications to frozen ground as subsequent rainfall could cause surface run off into adjacent watercourses.

Maintaining stewardship of these residual herbicides is vital to ensure their long term availability. N.B. while most of the application criteria for oilseed rape will apply to applications of propyzamide and carbetamide in winter beans, propyzamide must be applied pre crop emergence and within 7 days of drilling the winter bean crop.

GRANT SCHEMES

COUNTRYSIDE PRODUCTIVITY



In the first round of the Countryside Productivity Small Grant Scheme more than 3500 applications were successful, attracting a total grant allocation of £23.5 million. As the first round proved so popular DEFRA have indicated that a second round will be launched in the near future. It is likely that additional items will be added to the list of equipment options that may be grant funded. Assuming the funding details follow a similar process to the first round, grants will be available for 40% of the specified standard cost for a number of items designed to increase farm efficiency. Funding was available for £3000 - £12000 i.e. £7500 - £30000 total spend per applicant with the option to bundle several items together. Items include the purchase of Precision Farming Equipment and Resource Management and Efficiency Equipment amongst many others. Details of the scheme can be found at: www.gov.uk/guidance/countryside-productivity-scheme#country-side-productivity-scheme

Well worth looking into if you are considering any investment in new equipment in the near future.

SPRAYING CPD

NRoSO
National Register Of Sprayer Operators

OPERATOR ROADSHOWS 2018/19

The sprayer operator roadshows as part of the on going NRoSO training programme will be running through November and into the New Year.

The theme this year is: Check, Protect, Reflect and will be focusing on how to avoid mistakes and put 'best practice' into typical, on farm scenarios.

Within the 4 main sections: Current issues, Pesticide Storage, Water Protection and Technology, Operator and Tips there will be plenty of opportunity for discussion and to pick up tips and solutions to improve spraying techniques.

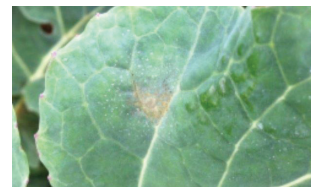
Invitations will be sent out shortly but details of dates and venues are also available from your ProCam agronomist and local ProCam office.

Attendance at one of the roadshows qualifies for 10 CPD points and 4 CPD points for BASIS members.

www.procam.co.uk/events

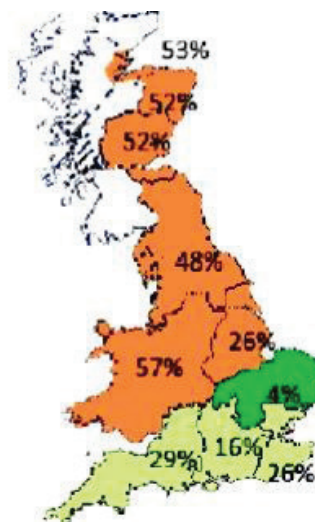
OILSEED RAPE

DISEASE RISK AUTUMN 2018



Phoma leaf spot risk in oilseed rape is now rated as high with the rainfall infection criteria being exceeded across much of the UK. Leaf spot symptoms are being found in crops, especially those sown in early to mid August although few have yet to reach the established spray threshold of 10 - 20% plants infected. Fungicides need to be applied as soon as threshold levels are reached. Later sown, smaller crops will be at a higher risk as the fungal mycelium can more easily move down the leaf petiole into the stem. For these crops the lower, 10% threshold is the key spray timing.

The other autumn disease threat to oilseed rape comes from Light Leaf Spot (LLS) and typically November is the key timing for the first effective fungicide intervention. The preliminary autumn forecast for LLS risk was published towards the end of November. This shows that, despite high levels of pod infection in the 2018 crop and the potential for high disease pressure, the warm temperatures of late summer/autumn have limited the threat across the UK, at the moment. Northern areas where LLS is traditionally more of a problem are still rated as a moderate risk.



The regional forecasts highlight the proportion of WOSR crops (with a disease resistance rating of 5) predicted to have more than 25% of plants affected by the disease by the spring. The forecast uses previous season pod incidence data, deviation from 30 year mean summer temperature data and 30 year mean rainfall data. In spring, the forecast is updated to reflect deviation in actual winter rainfall data from the 30 year mean.

These forecasts should only be used as a guide to potential disease risk. Regular monitoring on a field by field basis will be necessary to assess local variation to the general outlook.

Your ProCam agronomist will be able to advise on the appropriate fungicide options to limit the disease threat from both Phoma and LLS in your individual crops and varieties.