



PROCAM
AGRONOMY THAT DELIVERS™

Technical Update
Dec '18

EARLY WINTER POINTERS

The main autumn field work should be nearly done. Time to look forward to some seasonal festivities and plan for spring 2019 but some monitoring could still be required.



Despite some earlier concerns this autumn from dry soil conditions, crops, even the late sown cereals, have generally established very well. With the arrival of December most fieldwork has been completed and a quieter work period can be anticipated. However, current, relatively mild conditions are still creating some risks to crops that may require some action in December.

Although there have been a few frosts to date temperatures have not fallen low enough to reliably slow down aphid activity. Numbers of the BYDV vectors recorded in Rothamsted's suction traps across the UK have reduced in the latter part of November but are still being found at significant levels, especially in the south of the UK. Without some sharp frosts even low numbers of aphids arriving in cereal crops can continue to multiply and spread BYDV through the crop. Some earlier sown and treated crops may need a top-up insecticide spray. This will also apply to clothianidin (Deter) treated crops where these have been in the ground for 6-8 weeks and the protection from the insecticide may be 'running out of steam'. If mild conditions continue even crops sown in the latter part of October/early November, typically at very low risk from BYDV, may benefit from an insecticide treatment.

Your ProCam agronomist will be able to advise on the risk to your crops and any appropriate treatment. Further information on the risk in your area can also be found using the AHDB BYDV management tool at: <https://cereals.ahdb.org.uk/bydv>

N.B. Remember that all neonicotinoid treated seed must be used before the 19th December this year. This is the effective final drilling date for any Deter treated cereal seed but also applies to thiomethoxam and imidacloprid which has implications for other crops e.g. fodder and sugar beet.

The mild conditions have encouraged mildew in many cereal crops, notably winter barley in the north of the UK. In the absence of cold weather and where fungal growth is starting to appear on the newest leaf, particularly in crops on lighter land, a specific mildewicide may still be justified.

The Rothamsted suction traps also continue to record migrating numbers of the peach potato aphid (*Myzus persicae*). This aphid is the main vector for Turnip Yellow Virus (TuYV) in oilseed rape. If aphid migration is on-going then crops still have potential to be infected. There is some evidence that the impact of any late virus infection will be more severe on the smaller, more backward plants. Insecticides may well have been applied but crops will still need to be monitored for the presence of aphids.

While the threat to oilseed rape crops from adult Cabbage Stem Flea Beetle is over for this autumn, damage from the larvae has been and is continuing to occur. As egg laying continued over a long period, larval invasion can carry on from October through to April. Temperatures need to drop below 3°C to halt egg development and larval activity.

A count of five or more larvae per plant is considered sufficient to justify insecticide treatment. Another threshold is judged to be where more than 50% of petioles show leaf scarring. Treatment still relies on the pyrethroid insecticides and to minimise developing resistance these should only be applied where thresholds are exceeded.

WHEAT BULB FLY

FORECAST SPRING 2019



A total of 30 fields were surveyed in the AHDB Cereals & Oilseeds funded autumn 2018 survey of wheat bulb fly incidence. None of these were considered to be at very high risk (egg numbers >500/m²) and only one at high risk (egg numbers between 250/m² and 500/m²). A total of six fields (17%) were considered at moderate risk, containing egg numbers between 100/m² and 249/m² and 23 fields (77%) were considered at low risk, containing egg numbers less than 100/m².

The overall risk from the 2018 sampling is the second lowest recorded since monitoring began in 1984.

It is suggested that warm conditions and a rapid wheat harvest gave little time for fungi to develop on wheat ears. This meant less available food for the female flies who produced fewer eggs than in a wetter season when their food source is more plentiful. Despite an overall low risk, late sown (November onwards) crops, if tiller development is slow, can still be susceptible. Insecticide control options rely now on seed treatment. If damage is seen, early intervention with nutrition, rolling etc. can encourage tillering and crop recovery.

NRoSO

WORKSHOPS 2019



A quick reminder that, as in previous years, ProCam is running a series of Spray Operator Workshops across the UK throughout spring 2019. Attendance at one of these events will entitle you to claim 10 NRoSO points. Invitations will have been sent out but details of the workshops close to you will be available from your ProCam agronomist. Make sure you take advantage of this opportunity to keep your NRoSO membership up to date.

BPS

2018 PAYMENT RATES



Payment levels under the 2018 BPS in England have been announced by the Rural Payments Agency and payments should start to be paid from 1st December 2018. As was widely anticipated the payments are very similar to last year. As is well known now, the calculation of entitlement values is undertaken from scratch each year and the rate can vary depending on how many entitlements are claimed in each region. The fact that rates are slightly lower than first estimated indicates that more entitlements were claimed this year.

The table below shows the published rates, in euros and the actual entitlement value in £/ha that will be paid. This is based on the 2018 conversion rate of €1 = £0.89281 (£0.8947 in 2017). The net payments for 2018 are shown after deducting Financial Discipline at 1.42% (slightly higher than last year when it was 1.388419%).

The entitlement value for this year is compared with the payment for the last two years. The final result is that payments in Lowland and non-moorland England are slightly up on last year and a little lower in the moorland areas. Payments should be expected to be received from early December. Now is a good time to double check the figures to ensure any errors can be quickly spotted and corrected.

BPS ENTITLEMENT VALUES 2018

	Gross Payments - €/ha			Net BPS Payments - £/ha		
	2018 Standard	2018 Greening	2018 Total	2016	2017	2018
Lowland	181.39	78.13	259.52	212.69	227.76	228.14
SDA Non-Moor	180.00	77.53	257.53	211.16	225.70	226.66
Moorland	49.09	21.14	70.23	55.79	62.60	61.81

Source: RPA *converted at €=£0.89281, Financial Discipline estimated at 1.42%

As this is the last newsletter of 2018, may we take this opportunity to wish you and your family a

VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

AND A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

