



## AUTUMN 2015 AGRONOMISTS NEWSLETTER

### Winter Linseed

Crops have established well this autumn, despite later than optimum drilling dates across the country. Pre-em herbicides have worked well in the vast majority of fields, with few broadleaved weed issues to report. Crops have grown rapidly over the months of October and November, and should have received a fungicide for Kabetiallia control by this stage. Crops in many areas are also due and overdue PGR fungicide applications. Blackgrass control has worked well where Avadex and Centurion Max has been applied. Technical bulletins from a number of well known Ag-Chem suppliers have suggested not using Centurion Max on winter linseed due to crop damage. We have seen no issues on any of the more than 90 UK crops. Furthermore, in France where 12,000 ha of winter linseed are grown, no damage has been seen ever—and they have been using the product for a number of years. Follow up applications of Crawler should be used if required, once the weather has turned colder and more seasonal.



#### Broadleaf Weeds Control:

Where Avadex/ Callisto has been applied, pre-em broad leaved weed control has been very good. Soil moisture levels and well consolidated seed beds have played a role in this. Where seed beds are not as well consolidated, control has not been as effective.

Defy has been used on a handful of crops and appears to have worked well. Caution would be advised with this product, especially on chalk soil types.

Poppies are perhaps the most common weed issue to have slipped through the autumn herbicide net, but Avadex has provided some activity against the species. Spring clean-up operations should be planned with products such as Lexus, Eagle and MCPA.

A small number of fields have had issues with volunteer Oilseed Rape. In extreme cases the Oilseed Rape can smother out the Linseed. This prevents the Linseed crop from branching and covering the ground and instead causes it to elongate and develop weak, spindly stems as it competes with the volunteer Oilseed Rape for sunlight. This increases the risk of lodging in the Linseed crop. This should be dealt with ASAP and followed up with a PGR fungicide to minimise the risk of lodging caused by this scenario.

*Figure 1: Linseed in fine order to face the winter. 8.5 cm tall and well branched. Clean seed bed and no disease issues*

*Continued overleaf*

## Grassweed control

Volunteer cereals have been dealt with in most fields at this stage, but with a few exceptions.

Blackgrass control has been good on sites where Centurion-Max has been applied in conjunction with pre-em of Avadex. Where Avadex has not been applied and Centurion-Max has been, Crawler should be used as anti-resistance strategy.

Crawler should only be used if the crop is over 7.5 cm tall and branching. Most crops are at this growth stage already, however it is advisable to wait until the weather has turned colder. Crawler is hard on Linseed and will act as an extreme growth regulator, therefore it is important to have strong plants before applying the product.

## Fungicide and PGR

All crops should have received an application of Difenconazole (Plover) at 5cm. All crops should have received a Difenconazole and Tebuconazole (Folicur) for growth regulation if over 7.5cm.

A follow up PGR fungicide should be made 3 weeks after this if the crop is 10cm in height or greater. If Folicur was applied along with Plover in the previous timing, then Sunorg Pro (meteconazole) should be applied. Where Folicur was not applied, it should be tank mixed with Sunorg Pro to provide some disease control benefits.

A small number of crops have gone over the 10cm mark and should be halted ASAP. While the cold weather has been threatened for weeks, it has not yet arrived, until it does so, Winter Linseed crops will continue to grow in earnest. All disease control programmes at this point in the year are based on prevention.

Continue to monitor crop height. If rapid growth continues then make plans for a PGR fungicide application, provided field conditions allow access.



Figure 2: Winter linseed over 10cm, second PGR

## Pest Management

Flea beetles have only been a very minor issue this autumn. Some growers have applied insecticide treatments, but the vast majority of crops across the country have not required treatment. Some isolated and sporadic leaf notching has been seen early on in the growing season, however this did not warrant treatment.

While slug generally do not feed on linseed and crop damage is rarely reported, one crop this year has suffered any significant slug activity. Most crops at this point in the year are past the vulnerable growth stage for slug attack.

Pigeons can and do feed on Winter Linseed. While this is usually an issue in the late winter and early spring, damage from pigeon grazing has been found, mostly in East Anglia.

Pigeons will feed on Linseed by removing the newest leaves at the top of the plant. This will give the plant a cropped appearance, as if the top has been clipped off. Linseed can withstand heavy pigeon grazing, however this is best avoided.



Figure 3: Pigeon grazing in East Anglia. Grazed plants are missing the tight cluster of leaves that is on ungrazed plants.



## Trace Elements

A number of crops have shown up trace element deficiencies. Where crops are still growing actively, provided the crop shows a deficiency, a trace element mix could be added to any planned fungicide applications made over the next few weeks. As always, beware of field history or take foliage and soil samples to aid the decision making process.



*Figure 4: Extreme manganese deficiency in Winter Linseed. Farmer and agronomist are aware and have a plan in place.*

## Chemical News

Yara UK have just added Linseed to the list of approved crops for YaraVita Mancozin.

Premium Crops have obtained an EAMU for Toprex (MAPP 16456) to use on Linseed for disease control and PGR benefits. This product is cleared for spring usage only in Winter Linseed crops. The product is also cleared for spring crops.

Growers who are planning to grow Spring Linseed in spring 2016 and intend on using Avadex should be aware that the re-registered product with a new MAPP number will not have a Linseed EAMU. If growers wish to use Avadex on Spring Linseed they must use stocks from the current MAPP number: MAPP 12109.

## Sleigh Bells

As we come into the Christmas season, Winter Linseed looks good for the most part across the country. The vast majority of crops are well branched and are a respectable height (7.5cm +) to face into the winter and provide a solid platform on which to build yield in the New Year.

**Agronomy** - For any queries talk to Sam Deane on 07917275053

**Sales** - For Contract queries please ask for Sam Bazeley, Lee Gunnell or David George 02392 632883.

**Haulage and Logistics** - Please contact Aidan Gill 02392 292877 or Oliver Walton 02392 292878.

For all other queries, please contact the team on 02392 632883 and we will be happy to help.

From all the team at Premium Crops have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!