



## Winter Linseed Bulletin

04/16

### *In this Update:*

- \* ***Current crop conditions***
- \* ***Canopy Management and PGR strategy***
- \* ***Nitrogen planning and fertiliser usage***
- \* ***Weed control***
- \* ***Pigeon damage***
- \* ***Pictures of the moment***

### **CURRENT CROP CONDITIONS**

The vast majority of crops have come through the winter in fine order. Growth has been constant and steady, with only the cold snap prior to LAMMA machinery show providing any winter conditions to halt the crop. Early drilled crops, 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> of September are now approximately 20-25cm, crops drilled in the middle of September are between 15-20cm and late drilled crops anywhere between 7-15cm in height depending on seedbed conditions and soil type. All crops have good basal branching regardless of drilling date or crop height. It is vitally important that PGR programmes and Nitrogen usage are tailored to match crop height to prevent lodging and to make the most of the excellent foundation that has been laid down over the winter for yields.

Blackgrass control has been very good in crops where Centurion-Max was applied during the autumn. It has been especially good where a Pre-em of Avadex was applied or a follow up application of Crawler was made. However this was not always possible due to extremely wet field conditions in December and January.

Where Callisto and Avadex has been applied as a pre-em herbicide against broad leaved weeds, control has generally been excellent. However with mild and growthy conditions, BLWs have come through. Most frequent (in no particular order) are Cranesbill, Charlock/Runch, Cleavers, Chickweed and depending on soil type, Common Poppy.

### **CANOPY MANAGEMENT—PGR STRATEGY AND DISEASE CONTROL**

It is paramount that all crops avoid lodging. For 2016 there is a choice of Caramba/Sungorg Pro (metconazole 90 g/l) or Toprex (paclobutrazol 125g/l and difenoconazol 250g/l). Product selection will depend on crop height and/or site fertility. For control of Pasmio and Kabatiella, Plover can be tank mixed with Caramba/Sunorg Pro. Toprex carries good activity against these diseases and therefore does not need a tank-mix partner.

Premium Crops recommend a three spray programme for maximum PGR benefit and disease control.

| Timing           | Product                        | Rate                     | Water Volume | Typical height |
|------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1<br>Now         | Caramba/Sunorg Pro<br>+ Plover | 0.4l/ha<br>+<br>0.25l/ha | 100-200l/ha  | <20cm          |
| 2<br>Early March | Caramba/Sunorg Pro<br>+ Plover | 0.4l/ha<br>+<br>0.25l/ha | 100-200l/ha  | 27cm           |
| 3<br>Early April | Toprex                         | 0.15l/ha                 | 100-200l/ha  | 35cm           |

Where timing 2 and 3 are not possible, .27l/ha of Toprex can be applied at 30cm.

*Continued overleaf*

Toprex carries a strong PGR ability, do not tank mix herbicides with this product. The final application window for Toprex is Green Bud stage.

Ensure all PGRs are applied when the crop is actively growing and not under stress from herbicide applications, climatic conditions or nutrient deficiencies.

Check product labels to ensure maximum rates are not exceed on products.

Toprex has a number of restrictions on crops following an application. No broadleaf crops, including Oilseed Rape can be drilled for 16 months after Toprex has been applied to the field. No potato crops can be planted in the same field until 3 years has passed since the last Toprex treatment.

## NITROGEN PLANNING AND FERTILISER USAGE

With the majority of crops well developed, Nitrogen usage will be trimmed back. The first management objective is to avoid lodging. For advanced crops only minimum rates of Nitrogen should be used in the first split. This balance will be made up in in the second split, when flower buds are forming, to ensure yield is preserved- details will be provided in following bulletins.

The initial Nitrogen application is based on crop height.

| Crop height (cm) | First Nitrogen Application (Kg/ha) |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| <15              | 60                                 |
| 15-25            | 45                                 |
| >25              | 0-30                               |

## TIMING OF APPLICATION

The first application should be at the same time as the first applications to winter wheat i.e. at the start of spring growth.

## P,K & S REQUIREMENTS

Top up any P&K as required. See bulletin 1 for details.

Linseed has a similar Sulphur demand to a cereal crop and this should be applied (as sulphate) once the spring has properly started. Rates vary with situation, but 30kg/ha should be the minimum, rising to 60kg/ha for more deficient situations.

## MICRO NUTRIENTS

As well as the usual Manganese deficiency Linseed also has a demand for Zinc. On soils with excessively low or high pH micronutrients availability for a range of nutrients will also be poorer.

Where deficiencies are known exist, apply trace elements, majoring in Manganese and Zinc, but also broader spectrum products as appropriate.

| Soil pH under 6.0 | Soil pH over 7.5 |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Mg                | Cu               |
| Ca                | P                |
| P                 | Fe               |
| Mo                | Bo               |

## WEED CONTROL

Where weed control is needed, prioritise grassweed control. Blackgrass control has worked extremely well where Centurion-max has been used. Using Crawler from now on will have a detrimental impact on crop yield, any plans to use Crawler should be abandoned from now on.

## BLW

Many crops have small amounts of Cleavers, Brassica weed species (Charlock, Runch and Vol. OSR) and Cranes-bill. In this case Eagle is the product of choice. If Poppies are an issue a bromoxynil product (Maya) can be added.

## LARGE AND COMPLEX WEED SITUATIONS

| Product     | Rate     | Notes       |
|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Maya        | 0.75l/ha | Tank mix    |
| Basagran SG | 1.1kg/ha | Avoid frost |

Over the years this mixture has demonstrated excellent weed control and importantly, good crop safety. Rates can be varied to suit situations and applications should be made when weed growth is good. This is not a cheap option but avoids crop effects (yield loss) associated with other alternatives. As this is an SU free options there is no restrictions where Lexus has been used in the autumn.

All herbicide applications should be made when the crop is stress free, growing actively and not at risk of frosting.

## PIGEON DAMAGE

Pigeons have been grazing crops since December. As OSR crops start to push forward in the next few weeks, thus preventing pigeons from landing in them, they will turn their attention to winter linseed crops. Winter linseed is able to recover from hard pigeon grazing, however prevention is better than cure, so stay vigilant and keep pigeons moving to prevent them from holding a crop back.

Affected crops have the growing tip snipped off and the old growth becomes dark blue/black in colour. New growth from the base of the stem should be more than adequate to compensate growth.

## CONTACTS

If in doubt consult your agronomist on any of the points.

Our agronomist Sam Deane is also happy to take your calls on questions or query's you might have.

Tel: 0239 2632883. Mobile: 07917 275053

5th February 2016

## PICTURES OF THE MOMENT



**Advanced Winter Linseed**



**Pigeon Grazing**



**Poor Blackgrass Control**



**Backward Winter Linseed**