



WINTER LINSEED AUTUMN WEED CONTROL

This guide is laid out in a linear pattern, beginning with Pre-emergence control of ABLW (Annual Broad Leaved Weeds) and Grassweeds, followed by Post-emergence control of Volunteer cereals, Post-emergence control of ABLW and finally blackgrass control with Centurion-Max and Crawler.

Overall Strategy

Weed control is achieved by a sequence of products. For optimum performance of each component, the sequence needs to be well timed.

Avadex Excel 15g (Pre-emergence)

Avadex Excel 15 g is the basis of Blackgrass weed control programs. In all our trials it has been incredibly crop safe and will give up to 80% black grass control when applied at planting. It also gives a very good sensitisation of surviving grass weeds and some broadleaved weed control.

Avadex availability is significantly improving year on year. Although it requires proper granule applicators most of the new granule/slug pellet applicators now have settings for Avadex and contractors are more geared up to use the product. If you are growing Winter Linseed and have grass weeds this application should be standard.

Meadow Grass & ABLW (Pre-emergence)

Where the only grass weeds are Meadow Grasses and for excellent broadleaved weed control pre crop emergence use of Calisto is recommended. This product is very crop safe and means further post emergence broad leaf weed control is unlikely to be required. This means that a full and cost effective range of Spring herbicides can be used. Callisto can be used in addition to Avadex to minimise the need for further herbicide intervention later in the Autumn.

Trials carried out have shown there is a synergistic effect of sequencing Avadex Excel 15g and Callisto against black grass. By applying Avadex Excel 15g and following up with Callisto, both in a pre-em role, there is a fourfold increase in the percentage of blackgrass controlled. This then set up the crop for any follow up chemical control methods e.g. Centurion-max and Crawler.

Volunteer Cereal Control (Post-emergence)

We prefer Falcon because it is excellent for volunteer cereal control at low dose rates. Other fop/dim products are also acceptable BUT using lower rates early in the autumn is the best option.

The fop/dim herbicide is for volunteer control only and to achieve good control the volunteers need to be small (< GS 1.3).

For sequences where Crawler is going to follow do not exceed these early low rate applications.

For situations where there is no Crawler in the sequence and fop/dim herbicides will give adequate grass weed control alone (e.g. no herbicide resistance), then delaying application to early tillering of the weeds (<GS 22) at an increased dose rate should be acceptable whilst growth is active.



Bullion (Post-emergence)

The principal use of Bullion in Winter Linseed is for post emergence broad leaf weed control but it is best avoided by the use of pre emergence Callisto (see above). Bullion controls most ABLW, including problem weeds like Charlock, Runch and Cranesbill, and also tops up residual control of Blackgrass with no adverse implications for increasing ALS resistance.

On chalk soils Bullion can check the crop so dose rate should be minimised (10 g/ha+/-), trace element deficiencies rectified and application take place as soon as the crop reaches 5cm tall with a root 12.5 cm deep.

Centurion-max (Post-emergence)

Centurion-max now has an EAMU clearance for Winter Linseed. The main target for Centurion-max is Blackgrass, however, good efficacy is shown against Brome species, Ryegrass and Wild oats also. When using Centurion-max in Winter Linseed the crop must be a minimum 4cm tall and no frost within 24 hours of application to the crop. As in Oilseed Rape, **do not** tank mix any other crop inputs with Centurion-max and **do not** apply any other crop inputs 14 days either side of the Centurion-max timing.

Crawler (Post-emergence)

To work well the weeds need to be small which means application as soon as the soil cools down (November) and always before Christmas. To be crop safe Winter Linseed has to be 7.5 cm tall at the time of application. This can only be achieved with early crop establishment so that the crop is at this stage by the end of October. Rates of use should not exceed 2.5 kg/ha and for meadow grasses 1 kg/ha is adequate.

At higher rates Crawler will stop crop growth for up to 3 months, foliage goes dark blue/black and the main stem may die back!!! However, the crop produces 2 new shoots for every one that is lost and a full crop results. Applications in the New Year give poorer weed control and increased risk of crop damage and so are to be avoided.

Our advice is not to apply Crawler post-Christmas.

Tank Mixing

We would not advise tank mixing herbicides in the Autumn. Mixing Difcor 250 EC for Kabatiella control with low rates of Falcon should be fine where the timing of applications coincide (crop 2.5 cm tall; volunteers <GS 1.3).

PGR

A PGR can be used if the crop is taller than 7.5 cm going into the Winter and still growing. If Crawler is being used then this application will not be required.