



Winter Linseed Bulletin

04/19

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CURRENT CROP CONDITIONS

With a reasonably mild and dry winter last year turning cold in late January of 2019, the vast majority of winter linseed crops are at target height for leaving the winter (10cm tall). All crops have good basal branching, due to the mild weather and a characteristic of modern winter linseed varieties (see picture below). While growers may be concerned about small crops, it is a better situation to be in than have forward crops of winter linseed at this time of year.



Winter linseed 6 branches LHS and good root growth RHS-Cambridge

Blackgrass control has been very good, especially where Centurion max and Crawler applications have been made in sequence to each other. Growers who did not apply Centurion max will have weed issues to clean up in the early spring.

CANOPY MANAGEMENT—PGR AND DISEASE CONTROL

Once growth commences again in the spring, even small crops will grow rapidly. Therefore, it is important to have a growth regulation plan in place. PGR in winter linseed will utilise either Caramba/ Sunorg Pro/ Juventus (metconazole 90g/l) and/or Toprex (Paclobutrazol 125g/l and difenconazol 250g/l). For control of Pasm0 and Kabaitiella, growers can tank-mix either Difcor 250 EC or Proline 275 with the Metconazole products. Toprex carries good activity against these diseases and therefore does not need a tank-mix partner.

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

Timing	Product	Rate	Water Volume	Typical Height
Early March	Caramba + Difcor 250 EC/ Proline 275	0.8l/ha + 0.5l/ha / 0.6l/ha	100-200l/ha	15-20 cm
Late March	Toprex	0.30l/ha	100-200l/ha	30-35 cm

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 exceeded on products.

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. Toprex has several restrictions on crops following an application. Broadleaf crops, including Oilseed Rape cannot 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

Many crops are more forward than normal due to the mild weather, and the extensive root systems means winter linseed has excellent N scavenging abilities. Linseed does not require much N to get up and running in the spring and only minimum rates should be used in the first split. **Over application of nitrogen at this stage will significantly increase the risk of lodging.** The balance will be made up in the second split at Green Bud stage, to ensure yield is preserved. Details will be provided in following bulletins.

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 (end February onwards, depending on soil temperature). Those growing linseed on Fen soils should not apply any nitrogen. The initial Nitrogen application is based on crop height.

Crop Height (cm)	First Nitrogen Application (kg/ha)
<15	50
15-20	40
>20	0-30

P, K & S REQUIREMENTS

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

Linseed has a similar Sulphur demand to 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 the usual Manganese deficiency, linseed also has a demand for Zinc. On soils with excessively low or high pH, availability for a range of micronutrients 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.

BLW

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

Product	Rate	Water Volume
Maya	0.75l/ha	200l/ha
Eagle	20gm/ha	200l/ha

Continued overleaf

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

PIGEON DAMAGE

Pigeon damage has not been widespread this winter, damage has been seen in the eastern counties. As OSR crops start to push forward in the next few weeks, thus preventing pigeons from landing in them, they may 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 tips 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 for growth.



Pigeon grazing on winter linseed - characteristic

SPRING CROPPING CONTRACTS

Premium Crops have an increased demand this year for Canary Seed and Spring Linseed. If you would like to hear more about these options, please call 02392 632883 and ask for the contracts team.

Always read the label before using pesticides. Herbicide products in this bulletin are approved under Extension of use. Usage under Extension of use is entirely at the grower's risk.

CONTACTS

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PICTURES OF THE MONTH



Frosty winter linseed-Norfolk- up to 6 branches seen and good root growth in Cambridgeshire



SPECIAL OFFER

Free 2 month trial of RainCrop station



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