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First to market again – off-patent prothioconazole and tebuconazole mixes available to UK growers
Life Scientific has launched the first off-patent prothioconazole and tebuconazole mixtures to the UK market, Oraso Pro and Esker. This follows on from the very successful launch of its first off-patent prothioconazole fungicide, Aurelia, earlier this year.

Oraso Pro contains 125g/l prothioconazole and 125g/l tebuconazole whilst Esker contains 160g/l prothioconazole and 80g/l tebuconazole.

Both are broad spectrum systemic fungicides with erradicant and protectant activity for use in winter and spring crops of wheat, barley, oats, oilseed rape and rye.

“This is in line with the activity of their reference products, Prosaro and Kestrel respectively,” says Ruth Stanley, Life Scientific’s UK technical manager.

She explains that Life Scientific is able to offer off-patent products to agronomists and growers faster than any other company, based on the company’s unique scientific concept to reverse engineer a product from the original to produce a product accepted as the same by the regulatory authority.

“Which is what we did with Aurelia back in February, and have now done with Esker and Oraso Pro. We are delighted that we are in a position to bring more product choice to the UK market as we come into the key cereal fungicide spray timings.”

As systemic fungicides, Oraso Pro and Esker provide control of powdery mildew, septoria, glume blotch, yellow and brown rusts and tan spot in all varieties of wheat, barley, oats and winter rye.

They have also both been proven to reduce the severity and incidence of eyespot in wheats, rye and oats, she adds.

Oraso Pro and Esker also control powdery mildew, brown rust and Rhynchosporium in rye. In winter and spring oats crown rust and powdery mildew are controlled.

Splitting the products apart Mrs Stanley says that Oraso Pro will be best targeted where rusts are an issue. “ With a lot of later drilled wheat crops in the ground this season, yellow rust is proving to be a problem particularly on the more susceptible varieties, such as Skyfall which only has a resistance of rating of 5.”

“In these situations, the higher rate of tebuconazole in Oraso Pro will provide the best activity on rust.”

“However, varieties with higher rust resistant scores and low septoria resistance scores, such as LG Skyscraper, or those that were drilled early, are more likely to be at risk from septoria, and in these situations Esker would be the obvious choice with its higher rate of prothioconazole.”

Looking further ahead, she adds that both fungicides are effective at T3 for reducing sooty moulds, DON (deoxynivalenol) and provide moderate control of Fusarium.

Mrs Stanley underlines the importance of using mixes such as Esker and Oraso Pro within a resistance strategy and also to support additional fungicides, such as SDHI’s in the mix.

Esker and Oraso Pro are commercially available through distribution partners, ProCam and Hutchinsons.

For more information on Oraso Pro and Esker please visit see the Life Scientific website <https://lifescientific.com/products/>