



**Dublin based off-patent manufacturer Life Scientific brings quality crop protection products to market faster, providing farmers and agronomists with more options to meet their plant protection needs.**

**Anticipated early autumn drilling brings the importance of black-grass control to the fore**

As thoughts turn to this autumn, many growers across the UK will be planning to drill their wheat crops earlier than usual.

If conditions are suitable, holding your nerve after the disaster of last year's wet autumn will be harder than ever, and growers will want to know that they can get a good crop in the ground, says Ruth Stanley, Life Scientific's UK country manager.

It's important to remember with early drilling comes the increased pressure on black-grass control - and we know from experience that best practise is to delay drilling until mid-October, so that any germinating weeds can be sprayed off with glyphosate before the wheat crop germinates.

**The cold, hard facts remain the same – according to AHDB data it only takes 13 plants/m<sup>2</sup> for a 5% yield reduction, and when considered in line with the increased risk from early drilling, this autumn's herbicide programmes will need to be very carefully planned and implemented.**

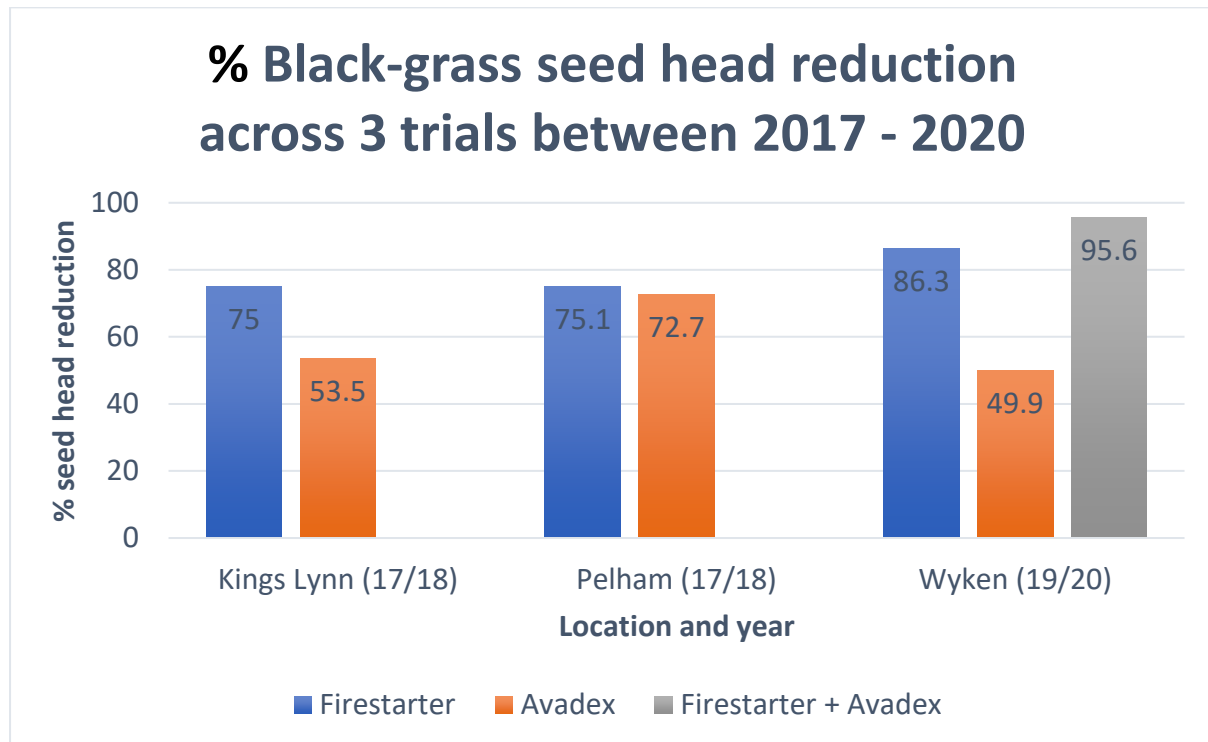
A fully loaded pre-and post-emergence herbicide programme will be needed - this will not be the time to cut corners or skimp on costs. A programme of different actives at full rate on a fine seedbed with considered application techniques will ensure the best outcome.

As Flufenacet is currently the strongest active against black-grass control it should be an essential ingredient in any grass weed control programme. With black-grass control there is very little room for error, so its important to know that the products being applied in the programme are proven and effective. This is very much the case with Firestarter, as its reference product Liberator has been proven over many years.

**Firestarter from Life Scientific contains a mix of 400g/l flufenacet and 100g/l diflufenican, in line with its reference product, Liberator. Firestarter is a pre and post-emergence herbicide for the control of grass and broadleaved weeds in winter wheat, barley and spring wheat.**

## Field trials demonstrate efficacy of Firestarter

Replicated field trials have been carried out over the last three years by the team at Prime Crop Research Ltd in order to demonstrate the efficacy and crop safety of Firestarter when used alone and as part of a programme with other herbicides.



- Untreated populations range from 62 to 527 heads m<sup>2</sup>.
- When applied alone, Firestarter provided significant levels of black-grass control with % seed head reduction ranging from 75% to 86%.
- When applied in a programme with Avadex at the Wyken site, over 95% seed head reduction was observed.
- Where black-grass is challenging, a programme of Avadex pre-emergence, followed by an early post-emergence application of Firestarter at 0.6l/ha plus pendimethalin on small, actively growing weeds is recommended.
- In less challenging conditions Firestarter plus or minus the pendimethalin depending on the circumstances, can be applied pre-emergence at the same rate.