



Life in Life Scientific...

Only 2 months ago we were reporting on the wettest February in UK history. The country has gone from one extreme to the other and the month of May has been recorded as the driest May since 1896 with less than 10mm of rain across the UK.

On lighter land, crops are visibly beginning to struggle with rolled leaves and short stems. Crops of oil seed rape in some areas have had a particularly short flowering period and reports of disease in cereal crops are low.

Maize on the other hand is generally loving the warmer temperatures and growers have been able to cut, turn and bale their first cut of hay.

We're hoping to return to a more normal weather pattern for the second half of the year, but no one is prepared to put money on that!

Picture courtesy of Met Office

Product News

After a flurry of product launches, Basilico isn't new news, but a reminder of the importance of weed control in maize crops.

Basilico contains 100 g/l of mesotrione and is a reverse engineered Callisto. It can be used in grain and forage maize to control several problematic weeds such as fat hen, charlock, redshank and pansy.

Full rate is 1.5 l/ha depending on weed target and Basilico should be used before the maize reaches the 8 true leaf stage.

For product label, safety data sheet and compatible tank mixes see the Life Scientific website <https://lifescientific.com/products/> or download the App to get product information direct to your phone.

Lambdastar, containing 100 g/l lambda-cyhalothrin is the only approved product to control *Delia Platura* (Delia Bean Fly) in Soya crops.

In previous years, growers have been able to use Chlorpyrifos for control, but this is no longer possible.

Lambdastar® should be used as a single pre emergence application onto bare soil to control female flies. It may also reduce egg-laying by acting as an ongoing deterrent, as it's the adult fly's sense of smell that directs it to emerging Soya crops.

Authorisation is granted under an Extension of Authorisation, Number 0785 of 2018. Rate of use is between 75ml/ha and 150ml/ha and the latest time of application is immediately post emergence GS 10-15.

T3 Applications

T3 applications are being planned for most cereal crops. Despite fusarium risk being low due to the hot and dry conditions, many growers won't want to take the risk of leaving crops completely unprotected from now until harvest.

Brown rust is also a concern at this late stage and plants will need protection to prevent yield loss.

Oraso Pro and Esker fungicides containing tebuconazole and prothioconazole make ideal choices to protect against ear diseases, rust, give a top up on Septoria control and help to prevent loss of grain quality in milling wheats.

Ideal Timing

The timing of T3 applications will, of course depend on variety and end market considerations, however the main target of the fungicide application will also change the ideal spraying date.

If the target is controlling foliar diseases an early T3, around GS 59 is considered optimum. This will also help to maximise the canopy size and the duration of yield building within the plant.

The ear is considered to be at the greatest risk of disease between GS 63 and 65, just after the start of flowering. Ears are infected via the anthers so it's important not to spray before these are out. This can be a really short time period so regular crop monitoring and a variety prioritisation plan should be in place.

Levels of disease control will decrease daily after flowering is completed, so at GS 65 crops will become a priority if weather has made application impossible up to that point.



Bean Agronomy

Many bean crops will have received their first fungicide application, but a follow up will be needed to ensure plants remain disease free for the remainder of the growing season. The recent warm weather brings an increased risk of bean rust. Spring beans are generally at a higher risk of disease development, however winter bean crops are also susceptible.

Rust scores are not classified on the PGRO recommended list for 2020 but there are no varieties of winter or spring bean crops which are resistant to rust.

Bean rust is identified by lots of reddish-brown pustules on leaves and should be treated to prevent yield loss.

Azoxystar containing 250g/l azoxystrobin can be used to treat bean rust. Two applications of 1.0 l/ha are permitted between GS 60-69. A 21-day interval between applications should be observed.



For more information about Life Scientific and our products. Please see contact methods below.

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