



Life in Life Scientific...

Weather, unfortunately, is still dominating headlines in the UK and Irish agricultural sector.

February 2020 was the wettest February in the UK since records began in 1862, according to The Met Office.

The UK received an average of 209.1mm of rainfall, 237% above the average for the month between 1981 and 2010.

We have our fingers crossed that the month of March is not another record breaker.

At Life Scientific we recognise how challenging the current situation caused by Covid-19 is becoming. However we're working to ensure we can still deliver for our customers to ensure as little disruption to product supply as possible.

Stay safe everyone.

Picture courtesy of The Met Office

Product News

Aurelia is our new broad-spectrum systemic fungicide with eradicant and protectant activity.

The 250g/l EC formulated prothioconazole product can be used in winter and spring cereals and oil seed rape to protect against a wide range of diseases.

Aurelia is now available from distribution partners Procam and Hutchinsons.

For more information including 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.



Best Laid Plans...

It's difficult to plan for a situation which you never dreamed would be possible.

That's the situation many growers find themselves in this spring. With much of the autumn planned drilling either not in or failed, growers need a plan for spring cropping and they also need a plan for the autumn crops which they have managed to get in the ground.

NIAB TAG offer advice to growers based on in field experience and trial data.

Life Scientific were present at one of the NIAB TAG briefing sessions where Patrick Stephenson, Regional Agronomist for the North, gave a group of growers and agronomists some ideas for the season ahead.



Discussion in the group covered various agronomy topics, some of the key learnings from the meeting were:

- ⦿ There are potentially low levels of residual Nitrogen in the soil so it will be important to manipulate crops to get maximum yield through Nitrogen timings and appropriate doses.
- ⦿ Matching varietal characteristics and drilling dates to fungicide usage. Lower disease pressure in later sown crops may not need robust fungicide programmes, however each field and situation should be assessed individually.
- ⦿ As temperatures are starting to rise and crops are actively growing, grass and broadleaved weed herbicides, should be applied where required.

Cintac is an effective broad-leaved weed herbicide with activity on bromes and grass weeds. February's newsletter gave application advice from specialist Tom Robinson to increase levels of grass weed control and can be viewed on the Life Scientific website. <https://lifescientific.com/>

Prothioconazole's Place In This Season's Fungicide Programmes

Following the advice from NIAB TAG to assess each crop and disease situation on an individual basis before making any decisions, we took another look at the strengths of prothioconazole and where Aurelia might be useful in a fungicide programme.

Wheat: "Prothioconazole remains a key corner stone for valuable disease control, as part of an integrated approach to disease management", points out Jonathan Blake, principal crop research scientist at ADAS.

Results shared at the 2019 AHDB Agronomists Conference showed that in trials over the last three years at full label rate in a protective programme, prothioconazole still contributed as much as 35%-45% of control of *Septoria tritici* in winter wheat.

Mr Blake also confirmed good results from prothioconazole in controlling *Fusarium* ear blight; in inoculated trials, prothioconazole reduced levels of DON by as much as 50%. It also provides good control of powdery mildew.

He added to this the importance of prothioconazole in stabilising and protecting new chemistry within programmes this spring, as newer fungicides come on board.

Barley: ADAS trials also showed that prothioconazole based fungicides are very effective for controlling *Rhynchosporium* and Net Blotch, Mildew and Tan Spot in barley.

OSR: Aurelia is also approved for use in winter oil seed rape, providing moderate control of Light Leaf Spot, Stem canker and *Sclerotinia* stem rot.

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

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Cintac and Aurelia are registered trademarks of Life Scientific. Cintac contains iodosulfuron-methyl-sodium and mesosulfuron-methyl. Aurelia contains prothioconazole.

All other products are those of other manufacturers where proprietary rights may exist. Use plant protection products safely. Always read the label and product information before use. For further product information including warning phrases and symbols refer to www.lifescientific.com