



Life in Life Scientific...

We have at last moved in to our shiny new office and even managed to welcome our first guest before the 2nd lockdown started.

Richard Brereton, our R&D Portfolio Manager joined us for our (un) official opening ceremony.

Hopefully it won't be too much longer before we can have visitors again....

Product News

Niantic, the post emergence herbicide containing 30 g/kg mesosulfuron-methyl + 6 g/kg iodosulfuron-methyl-sodium is a reverse engineered Atlantis WG and can be used this autumn in crops of winter wheat as part of a programmed approach to control grass and broad leaved weeds.

Mild temperatures and showery conditions have helped with weed emergence as pre em's have started to run out of steam. Use Niantic at 0.4kg/ha plus either Probe or Biopower while weeds are small and actively growing. Apply product in 200l of water per hectare.

It can be used to tackle not just black-grass, but other problematic weeds such as wild oats, meadow-grasses and chickweed.

Take care when applying any grass weed products, aim to achieve the highest application standards to improve weed control and prevent resistance build up.

For more product information visit the website

<https://lifescientific.com/products/uk/niantic/>



Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus

Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus (BYDV) affects crops of wheat, barley, oats, rye and triticale.

It is the most widely distributed and economically important viral disease. Reported yield losses range between 30% and 60% in wheat and 50% to 75% in barley.

BYDV is transmitted by the Bird Cherry aphid (top) and the Grain aphid (bottom)



The virus used to be a lower risk in the UK but following the loss of neonicotinoid seed dressings it is becoming more common. Add to that a warm and early drilling season such as we are experiencing this year and BYDV is almost a certainty.

An aphid will carry the disease for its entire life once it has been infected by feeding on a plant already carrying the virus. Aphids fly into the crop and will feed on cereal foliage or the roots.

Significant infection occurs when second generation aphids feed and move out from the initial infection point.

Infected plants grow slowly, and the youngest leaves will start to discolour. Later in the season plants are stunted and yellow patches appear, distributed throughout the field.

Aphid reproduction is governed by temperature, and chemical control should be targeted at second generation aphids to have maximum impact.

Regular field walking, the use of sticky traps and one of the several T-sum monitoring tools can be used to ensure that chemical application is targeted at the correct timing.

There are several sources of information for working out the best application timing for insecticide treatments. AHDB report on regional monitoring sites for aphid activity and publish regular updates at <https://ahdb.org.uk/bydv>

Advice on how to calculate the T-sum 170 day degrees threshold is also given on the AHDB website.

The T-sum is based on the date of crop emergence and the daily air temperature, and provides guidance on when insecticide treatment should be considered, although this should not replace the need for physical crop inspection.

Insecticides, when used alone rather than in a tank mix, are best used with a non-ionic wetter in order to wet the leaf and aphid properly. Application expert Tom Robinson's rule of thumb for applying an insecticide like Lambdastar at a rate of only 50mls/ha is "For water to wet a leaf surface properly and ensure good coverage, one needs to add a non-ionic wetter applied at 200mls in 200l water (0.1% concentration)

Tom also suggests forward and backwards facing nozzles to ensure maximum coverage of the target, a boom height of 50cm above the crop and sprayer forward speeds of 12-14kmp.

Correct product choice is essential due to the limited opportunities going into the autumn. Lambdastar contains 100g/l of lambda-cyhalothrin and should be used at the full rate of 50ml/ha.

The highest risk of crop damage is in the early stages of development so applications should be made before GS 32 where possible.



Life Scientific commissioned Agrochemex to look at the persistency of aphid control comparing Lambdastar against the reference product Hallmark Zeon. Details of the trial and its findings can be accessed on the Lambdastar Engineered Benefits sheet.

<https://lifescientific.com/wp-content/uploads/Lamdastar-Engineered-Benefits-UK.pdf>

Take a look or contact one of the team for more information.

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

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