

For Further Information

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Cereals

Weeds: Blackgrass emergence has been protracted this year due to high dormancy levels in seed and warmer than average weather and soils throughout October. Post-emergence contact graminicides are being considered as well as additional flufenacet top-up applications.

Pests: Seed treatments for barley yellow dwarf virus (BYDV) may be about to run out on early drilled cereal crops, these last on average 6-8 weeks in warm rapid growth conditions. Lower late autumn and early winter temperatures as well as reduced day length will reduce the opportunity for aphid infestation. If aphids are being found in the crop, further insecticide treatments should be considered to prevent aphid infestation and transmission of BYDV.

Oilseed Rape

Weeds: Most early herbicide applications have now taken place with propyzamide either applied or planned to be applied in the coming weeks. The efficacy of propyzamide is dictated by soil moisture and weed size. There is a requirement for adequate moisture present in the soil for uptake by roots but not so much that drains are running. Weeds must also be small enough to have their root in the upper few inches of soil. If weeds are rooting at depth, propyzamide will be less effective. Cooler soil temperatures will determine the longevity of herbicidal activity but not its efficacy.

Pests: Peach potato aphid are being caught in numerous suction traps across the country with increased catches in the North (Edinburgh, Newcastle and York). Populations are often highly resistant to pyrethroids but there are some non-pyrethroid options which can be considered. Pymetrozine and thiacloprid can both be applied for aphid control but can only be used once in the autumn. Optimum timing for treatment is not readily determined but if populations are increasing rapidly and the majority of aphid migration into crops has ceased then treatment should take place.

Diseases: Phoma is now present in most crops. Fungicides have either been applied or are due to be applied shortly to reduce phoma pressure and risk of stem canker. Light leaf spot has been slower to appear, with the risk considered to be moderate in most parts of the country however there is large variation between regions. Earlier sown crops and those with lower disease resistance are most at risk from early disease pressure and should be managed accordingly.

News

RPA: The new Rural Payments Agency (RPA) chief executive Paul Caldwell warned at this week's Northern Farming Conference that it will take time to improve the way support payments are delivered to farmers, amid mounting cashflow concerns among farmers this winter.

The way RPA checks the rule, GAEC 5, relating to minimising soil erosion is changing from 1 January 2018. This

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means that farmers must make sure they have put in place suitable practical measures to limit soil and bankside erosion and can show this during any inspection. The RPA also advises, that if land is in an NVZ for the first time in 2017, farmers should read about the transitional arrangements by visiting www.gov.uk/guidance/nutrient-management-nitrate-vulnerable-zones

Glyphosate: The European Commission called for a formal vote on a 5 year proposal for the renewal of approval of glyphosate at the Standing Committee on Plants Animals Food and Feed (SCoPAFF) on 9th November. There was no qualified majority either in favour or against the proposal. Fourteen member states supported the 5 year proposal: Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Spain, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, The Netherlands, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland Sweden and the UK. Five member states abstained: Bulgaria, Germany, Poland, Portugal and Romania. Nine opposed the proposal: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg and Malta. The proposal will now go to Appeal Committee on 27 or 28 November 2017. The Appeal Committee outcome is expected to reflect the voting in SCoPAFF as the Committee comprises members from each member state.

Depending on the outcome of the vote at the Appeal Committee the Commission may decide to take the decision on the renewal of glyphosate on behalf of member states, even though earlier this year it said it would not.

**Event: Winter Technical Farmer Conference - Sustainable Productivity - 15th November 2017, 9.00 am
Kingsgate Conference Centre, Peterborough, PE1 4YT**

Speakers:

- Allan Wilkinson (Head of Agriculture, HSBC)
- Dr Alison Bentley (Head of Genetics & Breeding, NIAB)
- Sebastian Graff-Baker (Partner - Andersons Midlands)
- Alastair Leake (W&GCT, Allerton Project)
- Dr Jackie Stroud (Soil Scientist & Ecologist, Rothamsted).

[More detail and bookings >>](#)