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HUTCHINSONS

Crop Production Specialists

Cereals

T3 fungicide applications will soon be required as winter wheat crops are growing rapidly in the warm weather. Timing of the ear spray is critical and will be aimed at full ear emergence but just before flowering begins. Rainfall and temperature during flowering will determine the relative risk of Fusarium (warm and wet) or Microdochium (cool and wet) but if weather conditions continue as they are it is likely to be Fusarium which is the major ear disease. Ear sprays will include prothioconazole, tebuconazole or metconazole +/- additional azoxystrobin or fluoxastrobin for extra disease control and extended Green Leaf Area retention.

Warm temperatures are driving an influx of aphids in many crops. Aphids are now being found in high numbers on cereal crops in the South East and are expected across the country imminently. Thresholds for treatment are 50% of tillers infested before ear emergence and two thirds of ears infested once the ears have emerged.

Potatoes

Most crops are now growing rapidly following last week's rain and now high daytime temperatures. Growers will continue to monitor crops for blight as conditions are suitable for blight to become prevalent. The new Hutton Criteria will be followed as this takes into account the more virulent strains of blight which can become active much more rapidly. The Hutton Criteria is: two consecutive days with a minimum temperature of 10°C, and at least six hours of relative humidity ≥ 90%

Legumes

Pea crops are now beginning to flower and therefore a robust fungicide program will take place as soon as possible.

The first pea moth thresholds have been caught in Essex and guidance on timing of control, following a threshold catch can be found on the PGRO website, best options for control are pyrethroid insecticides.

Numerous reports have come in this week regarding black bean aphid entering crops in large numbers. The threshold for this pest is 5 – 10 % plants infected and pirimicarb can still be used in this crop and would offer the best means of suppressing the pest. Bruchid beetle will also need consideration following the prolonged warm weather. It is essential that beans are not sprayed during daytime hours with insecticides, particularly pyrethroids, as this will impact on bees and other pollinators. Growers will spray when bees are not actively foraging.

Sugar Beet

Some crops are approaching 'meeting in the row' but others are much more variable, in some cases within the same field, where the variability of emergence has been exacerbated by dry weather. These crops will continue to require herbicides to ensure optimum weed control until the crop closes over the row and prevents further emergence.

News

There have been reports that the EU Commission plans to recommend a ten year reauthorisation of glyphosate, after the herbicide's EU license expired last year. A decision on the re-approval will be made by the end of 2017.

The Metaldehyde Stewardship Group has launched an enhanced campaign for 2017 to ensure maximum protection of the environment, and in particular birds, small mammals, and water. For more information go to www.getpelletwise.co.uk

Following the Conservative Party manifesto promise to keep spending on farm support at current levels until 2022. George Eustice, current DEFRA Farming Minister, has said he would 'envisage, perhaps between 2020 and 2025, a gradual change in the way we support agriculture, so we emerge with something that is much more focused'.

The Hutchinsons Regional Technology Centres will be open for site tours in June and July 2017, book your place online:
<http://www.hlhld.co.uk/forthcoming-events.html>

Hutchinsons Seed and Information Book for 2017 now available. To order a printed version or download:
<http://www.hlhld.co.uk/seedbrochure.html>