ARE YOU ON BOARD FOR THE BLACK GRASS BATTLE?

WE’RE BRINGING TOGETHER EXPERTS IN THE FIELD TO TACKLE FARMING’S BIGGEST ENEMY.
Chemical control of grassweeds should start with the use of glyphosate on stubbles, stale seedbeds or cultivated soils to ‘burn-off’ any emerged black-grass, ryegrass or brome prior to drilling the crop.

Currently there are no confirmed cases of glyphosate resistant black-grass in the UK, however, it is important to follow WRAG guidelines to prevent it occurring (ref: Guidelines for minimising the risk of glyphosate resistance in the UK, WRAG 2016).

Once the crop is sown, the use of sequential applications of pre, peri and post-emergence herbicide mixtures is key to managing black-grass populations. Single applications made either pre or post-emergence are unlikely to give satisfactory control due to the nature of the weed, its germination pattern and strong, competitive growth.

Black-grass resistance to post-emergence graminicides is widespread resulting in the reduction in efficacy of these sprays. This means that we have to rely on the efficacy of residual herbicides, which are applied pre and peri-emergence of the weed, in order to gain control of black-grass. Therefore, in order to get the most out these residual herbicides, care should be taken to create a good seedbed, which is free of clods and has a good cover of fine, settled soil over the crop seed.

Flufenacet and pendimethalin are currently the strongest pre-emergence active ingredients against black-grass and so products that contain these actives tend to give the best levels of control.

BASF and independent trials over several years have shown that pre-emergence applications of Crystal® which contains flufenacet and pendimethalin, in mixture with DFF gives the best start to black-grass control. For the most challenging black-grass situations use a pre-emergence programme of Avadex granules followed by Crystal® + DFF at full rates 4.0 l/ha of Crystal and 0.2 l/ha DFF.

Once the crop starts to emerge, products containing flufenacet and picolinafen, such as Pontos® and Quirinus® are also valuable partners in the early follow-up herbicide application timing when the black-grass is at peri-emergence or very early post-emergence. This sequence of applications effectively ‘tops up’ the pre-emergence sprays in order to obtain the greatest persistency and control of the black-grass.

DISCOVER INFORMATION AND ADVICE IN 8 KEY WEED CONTROL AREAS.
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