



ARE YOU ON BOARD FOR THE ~~BLACK GRASS~~ BATTLE?

WE'RE BRINGING TOGETHER EXPERTS IN THE FIELD TO TACKLE FARMING'S BIGGEST ENEMY.

BASF

We create chemistry

MEET OUR EXPERTS

PHILIP WRIGHT

Cultivations Expert



Philip was trained in Agricultural Engineering at Silsoe College, Bedford, gaining an Honours Degree in 1979. He became registered as a Chartered Engineer with the Engineering Council in 1990 and, is a Member of the Institution of Agricultural Engineers, the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers and the British Society of Soil Science.

He was also Technical Director of Simba International (subsequently Great Plains), previously the UK leading manufacturer of cultivations machinery. Philip formed Wright Resolutions Limited in 2007 to provide cost effective, environmentally friendly solutions for the agricultural industry.

Philip's Expertise

As part of the BASF panel of Arable Weed Control experts, Philip will advise on cultivations and drilling techniques specifically targeting the control of various key weeds. Topics will include how they respond to soil disturbance, where the weed seed bank needs to be for best control (inverted/buried, or in the upper zone of maximum residual herbicide efficacy), plus the ideal scenarios for effective control – delayed drilling, spring cropping, other cultivations and residue/canopy management options, ideal cropping rotation sequences, the roles of cover cropping, etc.

IMPORTANCE OF CORRECT CULTIVATION TECHNIQUES

The importance of using the correct cultivation technique for the crop goes without saying. Every grower wants to get their crop off to the best start and maximise its growth and rooting potential to achieve the highest yield and gain the most profit.

However, growers often don't fully consider the correct cultivation techniques for managing weeds.

Depending on the species, weed seeds survive and germinate at different depths throughout the soil profile. Understanding where these seeds are placed, and then how different cultivations and establishment methods will affect the seeds in relation to the growing crop plays a major role in weed control.

With this knowledge you can then make informed choices about how you want to manage the seed bank e.g. bury the seed beneath the germination zone or encourage the weeds to grow so they can be destroyed with a total herbicide.

Drainage and Compaction

Cultivations also influence other factors which impact weed populations. Field drainage and compaction also have a role to play in effective weed control.

Drainage is a key factor for managing soils. Spring 2018 saw above average rainfall and this can cause structural damage, so checking

wheelings after this harvest will be essential to determine if loosening is needed.

If correctional cultivations are needed, avoid going the same depth year on year as this will lead to creation of a plane of weakness likely to lead to a build-up of fines and a sedimentation pan. The type of loosening also plays a major part in weed seed bank management, and can be "fine-tuned" according to the weeds present and the overall control strategy.

If drains are in a poor state and mole draining is an option, it is essential to avoid pulling moles and channelling water to low areas in the field (especially where back-fill is not used) making these areas wetter, as this will directly encourage black-grass and reduce crop competitiveness. Longer term, after combining, this will spread weed seeds across the field to a broader scale.

Compaction can be minimised by going back to basics and ensuring tyre pressures and ballast levels are set correctly for the job being undertaken. Optimising these settings also helps to minimise wheel slip – a factor influencing weed germination at critical times such as when drilling the next crop. Go back to the manual to check the settings and use a spade to assess the existing levels of compaction in the field – and confirm the minimum requirements for effective and competitive crop establishment.

DISCOVER INFORMATION AND ADVICE IN 8 KEY WEED CONTROL AREAS. READ MORE AND JOIN IN FOR FREE AT BASFREALRESULTS.CO.UK/AWC