

CROSS CROP CORNER

NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 4 |
APRIL 2024

Welcome...

Receive updates across Cereals, Sugar Beet and Maize throughout the season with the Cross Crop Newsletter.

...to the April edition of KWS UK's Cross Crop Corner. In this issue, the technical team will be discussing topics relevant to this stage of the season for all our key crops within our portfolio.

What will we cover?

- Olivia discusses fungicide applications in barley and wheat
- Rory reviews fungicide choices in hybrid rye
- Andrew stresses the importance of checking sowing depth when drilling maize
- Martin touches on drilling progress and explains what you should be doing with CONVISO® SMART varieties currently?

Thank you for reading! Don't forget, if you know anyone that may be interested in this newsletter, please feel free to forward it on, and encourage them to sign up.

Best Regards,



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T1's in wheat are happening!

Cereals with Olivia

"Winter barley is really getting going with many crops having leaf 3 emerged now.

The first fungicide and PGR should be on but, if not, this should be on the do list next for farmers that haven't managed to get out there yet. It is amazing how the hybrids have now taken over from the conventional 2 rows in terms of vigour this time of year (see figure 1 below.)

T1's in wheat are happening! Where the weather allows, especially with the mid/late September drilled



KWS Extase. We know it is out there despite recommendations to not drill it until October!

However, most crops drilled in the 1st two weeks of October before the rain arrived will be on the verge of finished as well. Any later drilled wheat will need a little longer to get to the required growth stage, but it will be moving quickly with this

warmer weather! A lot of fields have a lot of variation within them, so getting that growth stage right so it is an average of the field will be key.

Despite the relentless conditions, it's encouraging to remember that from a *Septoria* control perspective, everything is still to play for. With leaf 3 still largely yet to emerge, this means any visual disease symptoms are on leaves with minimal yield contribution. Disease control decisions from T1 onwards will strongly influence yield potential."



Figure 1 - Hybrids vs. conventionals

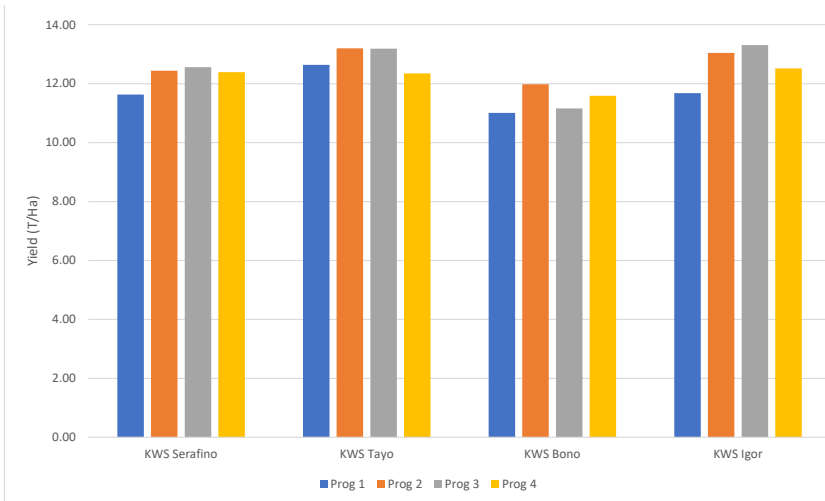
Fungicide applications... **HYBRID RYE**

with Rory



“Rye is moving through its growth stages very quickly with the mild weather and plenty of moisture still around so keep an eye out of leaf emergence for optimum spray timings. T2 spray may not be far away or may already have been applied on more forward crops. See below some data from a trial in Scotland last season, where we looked at fungicide choices, with triazole based programs coming out on top for yield. Incidentally, there was also less lodging in programs 2 & 3 compared to programs 1 & 4.”

T1 and T2 different treatments



Programme Number	T1 GS 31-32	T2 GS 39-45
1	Untreated Fungicide 3C 1.75l	Untreated
2	Proline 0.35L 3C 1.75l	Proline 0.35L
3	Prosaro 0.8l 3C 1.75l	Prosaro 0.8l
4	Revystar 0.75L 3C 1.75l	Revystar 0.75L

Check your sowing depth! Maize with Andrew

“At last some sunshine, and everything is drying up. Some soils still need more time to dry out and allow soil temperatures to rise. By and large, soil temperatures are reaching target, and expect soil temperatures to rise quickly now, with May sown crop sown likely to have rapid emergence.”

The flip side is that weeds will be vigorous too, so ensure your weed control strategy is ready to go, and I would strongly encourage the use of pre-emergent herbicides to give the crop the best start and create a wider window for the post emergent herbicide

Sowing Depth

With warmer conditions soils can alter fast, with seedbeds prone drying out, providing uneven emergence, which will track all the way through to harvest maturity. So, ensure sowing goes into moisture, a minimum of 5cm depth and increasing to 7.5cm as the month progresses.

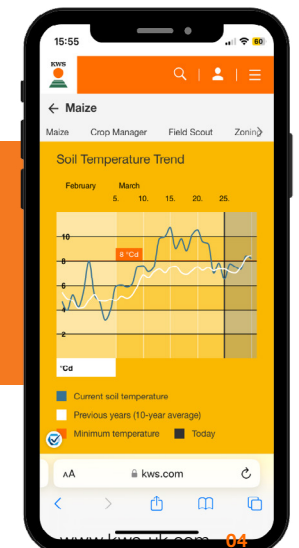
This approach also ensures the buttress roots anchor properly, increasing autumn storm protection, and deeper sowing reduces the risk of corvid damage. It really pays to check sowing depth and adjust accordingly.”



Use our **soil temperature tool** to check your soil. Click **here**.



programme. Even what appears a relatively small weed burden will impact yield, and if control is delayed you can experience severe yield losses.





Sugar beet with Martin

Sugar beet drilling and emergence

“ **Similar to last month, drilling is still on going, albeit slowly, with heavy rains being the main cause of steady progress.**

On a positive note early sown crops have germinated and some have received their first herbicide sprays. There have been some cases of wind blown soil damage, light frosts and also hail damage. Both will have tenderised the beet. Please allow the beet to recover before spraying, delaying herbicide applications may be necessary.

Where an early post emergence spray is needed, Metamitron is considered the safest option. Ensure crops have sufficient nitrogen early on. A 60/40 split of nitrogen is often recommended, with 60% at sowing and then 40% at two true leaves, latest.

It is unlikely given the current forecasted cold weather but remain vigilant for aphids.



What to do with CONVISO® SMART varieties currently?

1. Sow after you have finished with classic varieties.
2. Record which fields are sown with SMART varieties and mark the field entrances with the SMART Supersign markers we provide.
3. If weeds are already moving on quickly a classical herbicide is perfectly fine before CONVISO® ONE.
4. DO NOT mix SMART seed and conventional seed.

DO NOT sow areas of fields that cannot be lifted by a harvester; this minimises the risk of groundkeepers.

Check for groundkeepers in following crops and adjust the herbicide programme to target these if necessary. This is essential for crops following CONVISO® SMART beet, MCPA and 2-4,D have been seen to be most efficacious.



Thanks for reading!

See you next month - in the mean time, why not follow us on social media?



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