

# CROSS CROP CORNER

NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 5 |  
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Welcome...

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

...to the May 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 sheds some light on why we're seeing lots of brown rust in cereals this year
- Rory discusses what to be aware of when harvesting rye, and talks more about our oilseed rape breeding pipeline
- Andrew discusses the approaches you should take if you are drilling maize late

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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Agro-service Manager  
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**Andrew Cook**

Maize Product &  
Technical Sales  
Manager

## Catchy weather proving testing!

### Maize with Andrew

"As I write this, a lot of maize is in the ground and a lot still to be sown. The catchy weather is again proving testing.



For anyone who has drilled and applied pre-emergent herbicides, the benefit will be obvious. The sufficient soil moisture should have provided initial weed control and widened the window for post emergent sprays. Invaluable when spray conditions and limited and weeds are growing fast.

For those who only operate a post emergent programme, weed growth will be vigorous, and this competition will rapidly reduce yield potential, so

make sure crops are walked, and your programme is in place.

For those who have yet to drill, ensure drilling depth is at 7.5cm to aid buttress roots to anchor the plant fully. This will provide a stronger base to help mitigate any pre-harvest storms, and increase lodging protection. This deeper sowing will not adversely delay emergence at this time of the year. Also consider a ring roll post drilling to ensure seedbeds do not dry out should conditions rapidly

change to being hot, dry and windy.

Anyone with seed in store and not yet in the ground, and you are drilling later than expected, a reduction in your normal seed rate may prove advantageous. A reduction of 5,000 seed/hectare will increase cob:stover ratio and also advance harvest maturity by 5 days or more, which can be of significant benefit to help protect soils at harvest, and any future cropping plans.

If you still wish to purchase seed, choose the earliest maturing varieties available for harvest security. **KWS Temprano** would be a good choice as one of the earliest varieties available which needs as few as 130 days from sowing to harvest.

Stock available as I write, so please enquire on availability through your normal channel!"



*The weed burden shown above will soon impact yield if not controlled rapidly*

## Sugar beet with Martin

"It always amazes me how quickly beet can move on once they've got some warmth and rainfall to help them on their way. The past month has in general helped beet a lot after their initial slow start. As far as I'm aware all beet drilling has finished and I haven't had any enquiries about re-drilling for 10 days now, however the recent 50mm deluge on the Norfolk and Suffolk border certainly got some growers checking their fields were still intact. With the warmth, comes things we don't want to see to many of.... weeds and aphids!



Aphids have been relatively easy to find at threshold of 5 wingless per 20 plants, across the majority of the beet area. The warmth is also helping beneficial species out too, so hopefully this will hold back the aphid population. Most crops with Cruiser seed treatment still have protection and therefore do not require a foliar insecticide just yet. 8-10 weeks of



## CONVISO® SMART

With weeds moving on quickly CONVISO® One is starting to be applied. Please give the broadleaf weed control of SMART fields priority over grassweed control. Aim for fat hen to be at the 4 true leaf stage, no larger.

Remember there are two parts to CONVISO® One; foramsulfuron which offers leaf contact activity and thiencazabone-methyl which offers leaf contact activity as well as very strong soil residual activity!



## Simple steps to get the best from your crop

- CONVISO® One should only be applied to CONVISO® Smart branded varieties; SMART VESNICA KWS and SMART RIXTA KWS. Conventional varieties treated with CONVISO® One herbicide in error will be destroyed. CHECK FIELDS CAREFULLY before spraying.
- CONVISO® One has a broad spectrum of activity, but be mindful CONVISO® One will not control all weeds at all growth stages; some species are most susceptible than others; most reliable efficacy is achieved when treated weeds are small.
- Apply CONVISO® One as a single application at 1.0L/ha. DO NOT split the dose; this is an illegal use and is not supported by KWS UK or Bayer UK.
- Applications of CONVISO® One can benefit from the addition of MERO® in marginal situations (eg. dry conditions, weeds are becoming slightly larger than the optimum size).
- Follow the guidance provided on the product label; be aware the current label does not allow for tank mixing of any additional herbicides and the crop should be a minimum of 4 true-leaf stage before treatment.
- It may be appropriate and necessary to sequence with alternative selective herbicide products dependent on the species present, emergence pattern and anticipated weed burden in individual fields.
- CONVISO® One can deliver very robust weed control, but be realistic about product performance if weeds are treated at large growth stages.

At row closure review the success of the herbicide programme and if efficacy is below expectation, investigate the reasons for sub-optimal performance. Be mindful of the resistance risk arising from reliance on ALS-chemistry; plan diversity in cultivations, cropping patterns and use of alternative chemistries as part of a broader weed management strategy through the rotation.

## The KWS Manual for UK Growers

To ensure you get the best from CONVISO® SMART

Click [here](#) to download now



# OSR and Hybrid Rye with Rory

## Dry-down and harvest is on the horizon

### Hybrid Rye

“Harvesting crops of wholecrop rye for AD Plants will soon be upon us, with grain milky ripe being the targeted harvest timing. Just be aware of the nutrient legacy for the following crop, harvesting the crops green removes more potassium from the soil than allowing the crop to go to grain harvest. Also in general, due to rye being an excellent nutrient scavenger, there may be low residual nitrogen available in the soil for the following crop.



For those growing crops for grain harvest (particularly those that are on growing contracts with grain quality), it may be worth applying a T3 around GS51-59. Brown rust can be an issue late in the season if temperatures get to 20-26 degrees during the day and warm nights (15 degrees), which can cause yield losses and reduce protein content of the grain.



Benjamin Addy - KWS Tayo

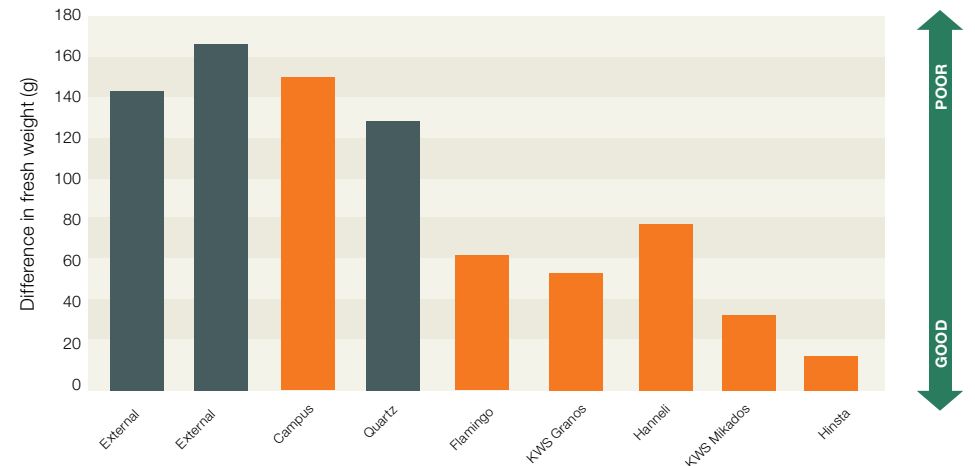
### Oilseed Rape

Thoughts will turn to potential pod shatter sprays and desiccation as harvest rapidly approaches. Desiccation with glyphosate could be useful this year, with many fields uneven due to varying factors from the weather or pests, desiccation may help uniform crop ripening pre harvest. Pod shatter losses can be high and choosing a variety with built in pod shatter resistance is a good starting point, nothing can stop freak weather events shattering pods close to harvest and it may be worthwhile applying a pod sealant to pod shatter resistance varieties to help minimize losses further.

We currently have an exciting hybrid breeding pipeline where, amongst other key traits, we are focusing on bringing varieties to market that have the built-in pod shatter resistance. Choosing a variety with a good disease profile can help too. Turnip yellow virus, light leaf spot and verticillium wilt can put stress on the plant causing pods to split open.

TuYV resistance is another built in trait for our new varieties, and we screen all our pipeline for verticillium wilt tolerance. In a private trial we inoculated certain varieties and compared the reductions in fresh weight with un-inoculated plants. Verticillium stem strip causes reductions in fresh weight, therefore the more likely resistant varieties are those with no or very little reduction in fresh weight, whereas the ones with a greater reduction could be classed as more susceptible.”

Difference in fresh weight lost between inoculated treatment vs uninoculated treatment 59 days post inoculation



Data source: ADAS trial for KWS UK

Disease pressures...

# BROWN RUST



## Cereals with Olivia

“Very different weather this month as I write this, last month I had some optimism but now I am looking out the window and torrential rain with the forecast telling me we now have 3 days and nights of rain! This doesn't bode well for the already high pressures of disease out there in our plots.

Many reports of high infection levels of brown rust in commercial crops and trials have been received, with most of these cases due to over winter conditions and dependent of variety rating. Brown rust is considered a 'warm weather' or 'end of season' disease, but it only needs a minimum temperature of 7°C to remain active, and cold weather will not kill it unless the infected leaf itself dies. In certain areas, inoculum levels will likely have been higher than normal, going into what was a mild spring.

Brown rust also cycles incredibly quickly, despite a good range of actives available to keep it in check, any remaining pustules which have not been treated. Plan those T3's now to make sure you have robust rust protection!

We are now getting into the full swing of open days! We still have some dates available to come down and have a look at our Product Development Site in Fowlmere. This trial sites includes recommended list varieties and candidates along with a selection of trials including direct drilling and time of sowing trials.

Please get in contact with me if you want to come and have a look around! You can email me [olivia.bacon@kws.com](mailto:olivia.bacon@kws.com). Alternatively, we hope to see you all at Cereals on the 11th and 12th of June.



Thanks for reading!

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



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KWS UK Ltd



Product Development Field - Fowlmere

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