

CROSS CROP CORNER

NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 3 |
MARCH 2024

Welcome...

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

...to the March 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 yellow rust prevalence in wheat
- Andrew provides tips for drilling maize to ensure successful establishment
- Martin gives advice to those looking to drill their sugar beet soon
- Rory tells us what we need to look out for in hybrid rye and OSR in their current growth stage

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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Yellow rust in winter wheat

Cereals with Olivia

"I am writing this with a glimmer of hope as the sun shines through the office windows and the trials drill is leaving the barn that we will have a better April in comparison to the recent wet drizzly mess.

What different years, last year we were all saying how dry it had been!

We have spotted yellow rust in some of the more susceptible wheats at this stage. Below is a table with a reminder of which KWS wheats will be more susceptible early on and which ones should not be showing any signs of yellow rust at this time.

KWS Zyatt	Susceptible
KWS Extase	Susceptible
KWS Ultimatum	Resistant
KWS Palladium	Resistant
KWS Brium	Susceptible
KWS Zealum	Resistant
KWS Dawsum	Resistant
KWS Cranium	Resistant

Just a note on KWS Extase, as you can see from the table it is in fact susceptible to young plant yellow rust, this is reflected in 2024/25 AHDB Recommended List, however, in the 2023/24 booklet, it showed as being resistant which was incorrect! So these varieties that are susceptible at this early stage may need treatment at T0.

Good news though, fungicide prices are coming out and most have a reduction on the 2023 prices, some significantly so. Therefore, we will be sure to see reduced costs of disease control programmes in 2024. Thank goodness!"

Tips for drilling maize with Andrew Cook

“As we get into April and ground conditions are improving, drills will be readied. For those who drill large areas or require the longest growing season there will be a keenness to get started, especially after all the adverse weather we have received. Timing with maize is crucial, firstly to ensure ground conditions are optimal. A race to drill which causes compaction is a sure way to limit the yield potential, removing all the potential gains from getting the seed in the ground early.

Soil temperature

Getting the seed off to the best start can be achieved by ensuring soil temperatures are correct and have exceeded target temperature for 5 days. For lighter soils the target is 8 degrees C, and for heavier soils this rises to 12 degrees C. when sowing in April, I would also be looking for a favourable forecast to give you confidence that soil temperatures continue to rise once your valuable seed is in the ground.

Check out our soil temperature tool

We have made it easy to monitor soil temperatures on your farm with our free, online soil temperature tool. The service will give the soil temperature at 10cms depth for your own region.

How to use the soil temperature tool

- Find it online by clicking on the maize section at www.kws-uk.com
- Enter your full farm postcode (space needed)
- Data updated daily in the sowing season

Ensure you are drilling at the correct depth, and in April, drilling at 3-5cm is ideal, which increases speed of establishment before temperatures increase significantly. Drill depth should be deeper when sowing is in May, at conditions continue to warm up.”

Sign up to mykws by clicking here, or alternatively, download our app in the app store!



Sugar beet drilling has commenced - Martin Brown

“Now that the ground in some areas is starting to dry up drilling has commenced on lighter soils. However, it does seem to be one step forwards and then one step backwards with some heavy showers coming through. Patience is required to ensure soils are warm and dry enough to allow for even and rapid germination, conditions can change quickly. A legacy of this wet winter will mean some soils will take a long time to dry out, heavy remedial action may not achieve ideal results.

Take the time to ensure that the varieties you have are sown in the correct fields for their traits i.e. **BCN Tolerant** varieties and **SMART** varieties. With cultivations, ensure that they are optimised to reduce compactions and minimise the risk of capping. Aim for a fine tilth down to 5cm, *do not* over work soils so they lose too much moisture. Moisture is key to an even germination, if it is dry, sowing down to 4-5cm will help place the seed into more moisture. Do stop and check for any smearing and compaction every so often as soils change through the field.

Do **NOT** use conventional seed as a ‘little

top up’ in a CONVISO® SMART field. If using CONVISO® SMART, plan to sow the whole field with SMART seed. Ensure seed drills are clear of conventional seed before sowing SMART seed. Do not drill any parts of the field where a harvester cannot reach the beet i.e. tight corners on headlands and around in field features e.g. pylons and trees. Mark where your CONVISO® SMART seed has been sown.

With Cruiser SB treated seed ensure that the maximum seed rate of 1.15 units/ha is adhered to. Make an accurate record of where Cruiser SB treated seed is sown. Ensure any regrowth from spoil heaps or MAUS runs is controlled to minimise the potential reservoir for pests and disease inoculum.

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.”



Growth stages - OSR and hybrid rye with Rory

Hybrid Rye

“Looking forward to April, hopefully first PGR and Nitrogen applications have been applied throughout March, with 2nd Nitrogen dose due once stem extension has started (GS31-32). A routine Sulphur application (10-16 KG S/Ha) may be worthwhile if it has not already been applied.



Depending on lodging risk a second PGR application may be due around GS 32. Rye moves through its growth stages quicker than other winter cereals so just keep an eye out, as the weather is now a bit warmer and crops take up nitrogen and starting moving through their growth stages. The AHDB Descriptive List is a good place to look for lodging scores on varieties. If you are looking to prioritise applications, KWS Igor is a bit more prone to lodging than KWS Gilmour or Tayo for example.

If a T1 hasn't been applied watch out for brown rust and mildew in the crop, particularly in dense crops, and treat accordingly with appropriate chemistry. Treat rye like a rust susceptible wheat and stay on top of any problems as soon as you see them. The **KWS UK Hybrid Rye Guide** is a useful document on our website for information on rye agronomy.”

KWS UK Hybrid Rye Guide

Get the most out of your hybrid rye crop with the KWS UK Hybrid Rye Guide
Click [here](#) to download now



Oilseed Rape

“Crops are at various growth stages at the time of writing (mid March) with some early crops just coming into flower but most with flower buds visible.

Tailor PGR applications according to crop lodging risk depending on soil type, plant population and varietal lodging score.

- Optimal timing for PGRs for stem shortening is during stem extension to green bud.
- For canopy manipulation applications around yellow bud are more effective.
- Prioritise varieties with a higher lodging risk to with an earlier timing.
- Crops that are backwards, thin or stressed may not require a PGR.

Some PGR products offer light leaf spot control as well, consider the light leaf spot risk and varietal resistance when choosing the best programme, Granos and Hanneli both are rated 7 so may not require treatment, depending on disease pressure.

Sclerotinia sprays will be on most people's mind in April, with no known resistance in oilseed rape varieties, assessing risk and timing fungicide applications accordingly is key to minimize the impact of the disease. The scores on the Recommended List for earliness of flowering will help with planning the application of a first timing. However crops affected by Cabbage Stem Flea Beetle or Winter Stem Weevil may experience a delay in flowering.

Fungicides usually offer around a 3 week protection period against Sclerotinia, if a longer flowering period occurs and conditions remain suitable for the disease a second application may be required. It may be worth contacting the breeder of the variety, who may be able to give an indication of the length of the flowering period, to aid in your decision making.”

Thanks for reading!

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



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