

## Agronomy

It is now too late for applications of Crawler on OSR and winter beans for grass weed control. From 1<sup>st</sup> March, applications of Galera can be made for m Mayweed control with some clearer suppression on OSR. Latest time for application is when flower buds are visible above the crop canopy. Late applications can be detrimental causing distortion and aborted pods. At stem extension, use a fungicide with growth regulation properties either alone or in the mix with Caryx on forward crops. This will improve standing and manipulate the canopy, add in Boron and Magnesium as Spire at the same time.

Any over spraying of grass weeds in winter wheat should occur as soon as spring growth commences. This needs completing before applying T0 fungicides, as they can affect the uptake and effectiveness of the grass weed herbicides. There is a lot of Septoria on forward wheat crops and a robust T0 will be required. It will pay to front load fungicides onto wheat to try and get on top of disease levels early. A broad spectrum T1 fungicide and growth regulator tank mix should be applied to winter barley along with any trace element requirements.

There are a number of options for grass weed control in spring barley however many of these are EAMUs. So are applied at growers risk. Pay attention to drilling depth and adding in C-Cure will hold the active in the rooting zone. Be careful on applying before heavy rain.

Pulse crops should be drilled into a warming soil to encourage germination. All pulses should receive a pre-emergence herbicide, post emergence options are very limited especially in spring beans.

Remember there are no seed treatments for flea beetle on linseed and spring OSR. Encourage rapid establishment and be prepared to spray a pyrethroid as soon as the crop emerges.

## Sulphur, the second most important nutrient after N

In the past, the crop's needs were generally met from atmospheric deposition of sulphur; however today with the Clean Air Acts (emissions of sulphur dioxide have fallen by 97% from period '70-'16) it's now essential that we add this nutrient to our fertiliser regime.

Sulphur is vital for the formation of plant proteins and increases the efficiency of uptake & mobilisation of N. It is necessary for photosynthesis and deficiencies can include yellowing in younger leaves, as a result of reduced chlorophyll production. Growth is reduced through poor tillering in cereals and pale flowers/distorted leaves found in OSR. It must be noted that the hidden sulphur deficiency is far more frequent than the obvious signs of acute deficiency. Applying sulphur when the symptoms appear is far too late, as the crop will need a source of sulphur throughout its growing cycle.

Bartholomews have an extensive range of Sulphur products including Ammonium Sulphate 21N + 60SO<sub>3</sub>, Ammonium Sulphate Nitrogen 26N + 33SO<sub>3</sub> compound, Nitrogen Sulphur 27N + 9SO<sub>3</sub> compound, Kieserite 25MgO + 50SO<sub>3</sub>, Urea + Ammonium Sulphate e.g. 33N + 30SO<sub>3</sub>, 38N + 19SO<sub>3</sub> blend, CAN or 27N + 9SO<sub>3</sub> + Ammonium Sulphate e.g. 26N + 13, 24N + 35SO<sub>3</sub> blend. Added to blends such as 20-10-10+7SO<sub>3</sub>, 20-04-14+6SO<sub>3</sub> blend.



**Nitrogen sulphur grades are tight going into the spring with CF sold out of Double Top.**

**Call our team on for the best offers.**

# Spring Cereal and Legumes

After extraordinary pre Christmas demand, the market has now stabilised but availability of popular varieties is now becoming tight. RGT Planet is sold out, Propino is becoming scarce and demand for Laureate and Irina continues to be strong. Demand for Aspen and Elyann oats remains strong with supplies becoming limited and limited quantities of Spring feed wheat Belepi are still available. A difficult year for bean production, has seen supplies become tight nationally however we can still offer Vertigo. After such a strong spring season, we are increasing supply of spring seeds for harvest 2018, for planting in spring 2019. Growers who have the ability to store into spring '19, and have had suitable previous cropping, are required for Planet, Laureate, Mulika, Lynx and peas.

Maize orders are substantially above previous years, with many customers heeding our advice to order early because of the imminent demise of Mesurol treatment. We will be holding only a limited stock on Mesurol treated seed, so get your order in to ensure that you receive the treated seed you require. We have a broad range of varieties available suitable for favourable and less favourable sites, high starch and digestibility. All variety information is available on the website or for further information, please contact the seed department.

The Gamecover booklet is now available and we are continuing to offer the same popular mixes as last year. Keep an eye out on the website for any updates on greening information. Please note all gamecover maize will be sold on a no return basis, due to the uncertainty with Mesurol.

## Feed



# T0 Cereal Fungicide Timing in Wheats

Heavy rainfall and recent mild conditions throughout January and February has encouraged Septoria & Mildew to develop in many varieties of wheat, especially early drilled crops. In our own variety trial sites across the region we have been recording Septoria infections in most varieties. Long periods of frost may well slow down or reduce infection levels but regular monitoring will be required in the coming weeks. Although we have some very susceptible rust varieties on the current recommended list, no infections have been recorded at any our trial sites to date, but a sudden change in weather pattern could easily affect some of these varieties as we saw in this time last year.

What factors should we be considering at this early fungicide timing in wheats? Drilling date, crop growth, current disease levels, potential disease levels, variety & weather conditions are all factors which we need to assess at this early timing. There is very little effective fungicide chemistry available for curative action against Septoria, which is why an early protectant application is essential if ideal Septoria conditions persist. The objective of this first fungicide application is to provide a good foundation for future fungicide applications during the season.

Product choice at this timing will include a multi site active with or without a triazole fungicide, depending on the above factors. Aim to secure your requirements early because the supply of many actives will be either be scarce or arrive later than anticipated from overseas destinations.

With lambing season upon us it is important to get the right nutrition to support your animals.

We have a wide range of traditional compound options, in-feed minerals, as well as our new range of lamb milk powders.

Shepherdess contains 'NuStart', a unique combination of oils, prebiotics, probiotics and vitamins to support a healthy gut and develop their immune system.

Call our team to find out more 01243 784171.

*"Ask yourself if what you are doing today is getting you closer to where you want to be tomorrow."*