

BREEDERS DIGEST

Crop, variety and seed news for agronomists

Published by Syngenta Seeds Ltd

April 2007

Protect your investment in Tipple

With good barley prices but many first-time growers of NFC Tipple this season, good spring barley agronomy to protect that investment is key.



Spring barley drilling dates have varied widely this season – which will impact on crop growth

WITH an estimated increase in the amount of NFC Tipple being grown from 4% to 15% of the spring barley area this season, there's likely to be a lot of inexperienced growers.

Added to that, with drilling dates for spring barley varying widely – from crops planted before Christmas, to those planted in mid to late March when it turned cold – growth stages could be very erratic. So it will be important to monitor crops closely when it comes to making input decisions.

Fungicides

To begin with, timings for disease control could be trickier to predict in advance this season – with later drilled crops potentially going through growth stages quickly.

Unlike Optic, where a specific mildewicide may be required, NFC Tipple has better resistance to mildew. However, early Rhynchosporium control remains important.

For robust Rhynchosporium activity, consider a tank mix of new fungicide KAYAK + triazole for early season protection, followed by AMISTAR OPTI (which brings in leaf spotting activity) + triazole at T2.


Nitrogen

With reports of low residual nitrogen levels this season – after the wet winter – this needs considering with all crops. For spring barley, nitrogen inputs must be matched to the market you're growing for, the variety and knowledge of the how the particular soil performs.

Previous nitrogen trials have established that NFC Tipple produces high yields and maintains a large grain size over a range of fertility levels. The grain nitrogen levels did not exceed 1.65 at the highest level (175 kg N/ha).

NFC Tipple has also typically produced a grain nitrogen content 0.1% below Optic. While this may be less significant if aiming for a lower grain nitrogen specification (e.g. for domestic malting), if targeting a higher grain nitrogen specification (e.g. for export) then nitrogen inputs may need adjusting accordingly.

Mean grain N levels in trials

Variety	Mean grain N %
	1.61
Cocktail	1.68
Optic	1.72

Continued ...



Spring barley – micronutrients

As always with spring barley, it's important to ensure micronutrient supply doesn't run short.

Manganese deficiency especially needs avoiding, and many growers apply this routinely with a first fungicide. But with good barley prices, there may be good financial justification for a second application on certain crops – to avoid deficiency stunting yield.

Winter barley nitrogen

Remember the importance of second nitrogen doses around mid April for maximising yield in winter feed barley.

Hybrids in particular benefit from this second boost as a follow-up to a mid March application. But SEQUEL and SUZUKA can benefit too.

Keep winter barley standing

Watch out for increased lodging risks in winter barley crops this season. With good barley prices, but increased lodging risks from highly-tillered crops, the investment in a good PGR programme should pay off.

Like many varieties, winter malting barley FLAGON and feed varieties such as hybrids, SEQUEL and SUZUKA can benefit from sensible PGR programmes.

As well as a suitable dose of a MODDUS + chlormequat mix around GS31, be ready to apply a GS37 follow-up PGR treatment, as needed, if lodging pressure remains high.

Look out for NEW wheats

Check out the latest wheat varieties in open days and trials this summer. All these are in HGCA Recommended List trials.

Hereford is hard group 4 which has yielded exceptionally well across a range of situations. It has a resistance rating of 9 for yellow rust and 6 for Septoria tritici

MONTY is a soft group 4 producing very high treated and untreated yields. Stiff strawed and a similar height to Glasgow, it is also OWBM resistant

Duxford is a potential bread-making variety and is the highest yielding hard endosperm variety with bread making potential. Fast plant development means this variety is suited to late drilling. It also has very stiff straw

Limerick has hard endosperm texture, excellent bread making potential, very stiff straw and is suited for early drilling. It is also rated  for export

Winter barley diseases

With rust so widespread this season, be sure to consider this when making fungicide decisions. A rust-active triazole could be an essential component in fungicide tank mixtures this year at key spray timings. Meanwhile, KAYAK provides an alternative mode of action and therefore an excellent mixture partner against Rhynchosporium and net blotch, with AMISTAR OPTI a cost-effective and broad-spectrum option at T2.

Syngenta Seeds Ltd

Hill Farm Road, Whittlesford, Cambridge CB2 4QT. Tel: +44 1223 494010 Fax: +44 1223 494261
Email: nfc.enquiries@syngenta.com Website: www.newfarmcrops.co.uk

Disclaimer

The information given in this document is for general guidance only. Whilst every care has been taken to ensure it is accurate, it is, out of necessity, of a general nature and variation in growing environment or climate can render it inaccurate. Syngenta Seeds Ltd cannot accept any liability arising out of or in connection with the use of this information. Crop protection products should be used in conjunction with manufacturers' recommendations.

Syngenta Crop Protection UK Limited, Syngenta Seeds Ltd, and their affiliates will use this information to provide the services requested by you and to communicate product information, services and offers that we believe are relevant to your business. We use service partners to send these communications on our behalf. **WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, PASS INFORMATION TO THIRD PARTIES FOR DIRECT MARKETING PURPOSES.** If you do not want to receive these communications from us, write to the database manager at Syngenta.

Syngenta Crop Protection UK Ltd., Whittlesford, Cambridge, CB2 4QT. Tel: (01223) 833621 Fax (01223) 835211
Technical Enquiries Tel: 0800 169 6058 Website: www.syngenta-crop.co.uk

AMISTAR OPTI® (MAPP 12515) contains azoxystrobin and chlorothalonil, KAYAK® (MAPP ???) contains cyprodinil, MODDUS® (MAFF 08801) contains trinexapac-ethyl and are Registered Trademarks of a Syngenta Group Company. **Always read the label. Use pesticides safely.** ©Syngenta AG April 2007.