Partnership for Profit

SYNGENTA WHEAT TECHNICAL UPDATE MAY 2010

GALLANT winter wheat
Profit from late-season management

In brief:

GALLANT is a high-yielding nabim Group 1 milling wheat which has produced repeatedly high quality

Correct late-season husbandry will help it to achieve this potential

Effective fungicide decisions are important for yield and specific weight – and aren't just there for managing mycotoxins

Similarly, optimising nitrogen inputs will help achieve target grain proteins

Timing of inputs and harvest according to GALLANT's rapid development – together with correct storage and marketing – will also help maximise income

Knowledge of earliness of ear emergence and maturity is valuable information for getting the best from GALLANT

Core recommendation:

Yield, quality and mycotoxin management from disease control

T3 – AMISTAR OPTI 0.75–1.0 l/ha + Fusarium-active triazole

- ✓ Greening plus long-lasting and broad spectrum disease protection – in the crucial run-up to harvest
- ✓ Extra strobilurin quality and yield
- ✓ AMISTAR OPTI at T3 provides action against *Septoria*, rust, and ear disease, giving flexibility in Fusarium-active triazole choice

Harvest date for quality and yield

GALLANT has a ripening score of 2 days earlier than Solstice on the HGCA Recommended List. In the field it could be as much as 5–10 days, making it important to regularly check crops

Matching inputs to early development

Following on from its rapid speed of development at stem extension, the growth stages of GALLANT from this point onwards can remain ahead of other varieties. So it is important to take this into account.

The third (and most likely final) nitrogen application – 40–60 kg/ha*– should be made at GS37–39. The aim of this is to build grain protein, and the high yield potential of GALLANT means it is important that this is made on time. Similarly, flag leaf (T2) fungicides should be timed accurately.

Likewise, GALLANT could come into ear up to a week earlier than other varieties. This has implications for timing of ear (T3) fungicides. Testing of a *Fusarium*-active triazole has shown that non-optimum spray timings substantially reduce the level of mycotoxin reduction. The greatest reduction occurred when applied at the start of flowering.

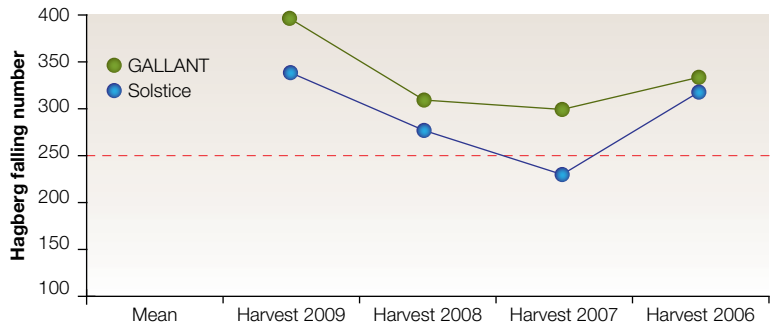
Early development also carries through to early maturity for GALLANT – knowledge of which helps maximise yield and quality.

Although some people like to apply liquid nitrogen as an ear treatment, not all buyers like this, so it is important to check your contract. The early maturity of GALLANT may also mean this is not a cost-effective method of influencing genuine grain protein.

* These figures are for guidance only. You must work with your agronomist when calculating nitrogen rates and timings, taking into consideration end market requirements and the fertility of the field. You should also work within any Defra guidelines/restrictions.

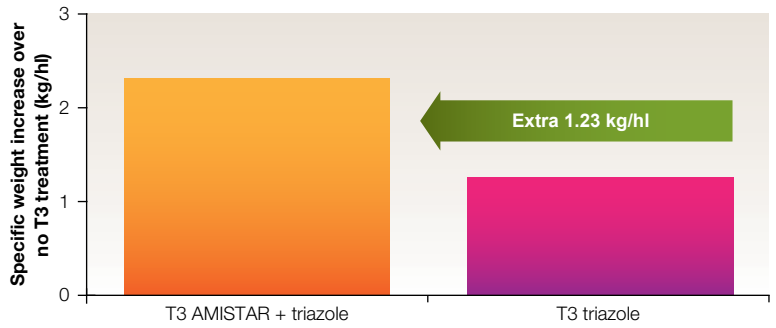
Turn over to find out more >

GALLANT – consistency of Hagbergs versus threshold over last 4 seasons



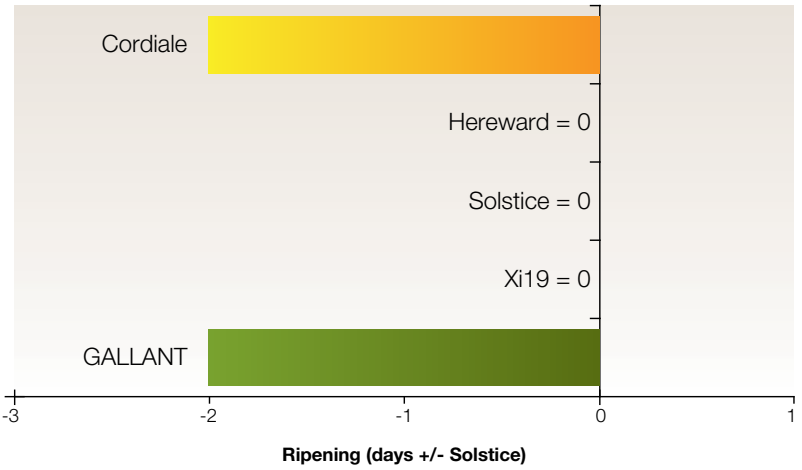
Source: Syngenta Seeds trials over four years (multiple trial sites)

Adding T3 AMISTAR boosts specific weight over triazole in trials



Source: Mean of 16 wheat trials. Various Syngenta and independent trials.

Knowledge of GALLANT's early maturity aids harvest planning and storage decisions



Source: HGCA recommended lists database. Full data at www.hgca.com

Storage and marketing

Even though it has only been on the market for a short time, GALLANT is now on many millers' lists as a Group 1 variety. Nevertheless, correct storage and marketing are essential.

Varieties must always be stored separately – especially when dealing with quality markets. Also, check contracts and other documentation in order to adhere to any other specified requirements. For example, these may include maximum grain moisture levels, specific quality terms, store hygiene and rodent-proofing, as well as mycotoxin limits.

Key tips:

- Continue to monitor GALLANT crops carefully to ensure optimum timing of late-season inputs
- Don't risk sample rejection or deductions – T3 is the final step to protecting quality and yield
- Use a suitable *Fusarium*-active triazole to target mycotoxin risk, adding AMISTAR OPTI to help boost specific weight and yield. Apply at GS59–65 (ear emergence to mid-flowering)
- For orange wheat blossom midge, apply HALLMARK ZEON at 50 ml/ha according to threshold against adults (latest timing GS77 before late milk, maximum total dose 200 ml/ha per crop)
- Check crops regularly to achieve optimum harvest maturity and get GALLANT safely in store

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