



Headland

Technical Update

Friday, 23 January 2009

Herbicide Options For Cereals In Scotland

The 2008 – 9 season is proving to be difficult in terms of early weed control. Many pre-emergence treatments have been missed, and the temptation may be to leave crops until the late spring. Although we have had significant amounts of cold weather this season as compared to the last several years, crops do have a range of emerged weeds that will grow rapidly as soon as the weather warms up. Some species, especially annual meadow grass will prove difficult or even impossible to control if left too late, and allowed to grow too large.

There are a number of options still open to us to control both meadow grasses and broad leaved weeds, utilising a range of products:

Blazer®

Blazer, containing 330 g/l pendimethalin as an EC, is a product which exhibits very low solubility and low mobility in the soil

Used in Winter wheat, winter barley, triticale and rye, the maximum dose rate is 4l/ha, applied once in any crop from pre-emergence to before leaf sheath erect. It needs to be applied pre-emergence of the weeds.

At 3 l/ha it will control annual meadow grass, chickweed, hemp nettle, red dead nettle, speedwells and oilseed rape, as well as suppressing a range of other species pre-emergence. An increase to 4 l/ha will improve persistence and broaden weed control. The important gaps, particularly at the lower rates, will include groundsel, mayweed, pansy and cleavers. The other significant problem where no previous treatment has been possible will be emerged annual meadow grass, especially difficult to control once it has started to tiller. We have until the end of June 2009 for growers to use up existing stocks of isoproturon, and the control of this emerged annual meadow grass is an ideal opportunity. **The maximum rate we are permitted to use is now 1500 g ai/ha, or 3 l/ha of a 500 g/l material.** This treatment needs to be on in early spring, as soon as the worst of the winter weather has passed. Alternatively Tolerate (500g/l chlortoluron) may be used at rates up to 5.5 l/ha, subject to varietal tolerance.



Options available include:

Blazer, 3 – 4 l/ha max.:

Product	Rate	Timing	Target
Where IPU is still available, IPU, (500 g/l)	Up to 3 l/ha	Post-emergence of the crop. Legal only until the end of June 2009	Control of emerged annual meadow grass and broad leaved weeds. Broadens control of Blazer to include mayweed, and some groundsel control.
Tolerate, (500 g/l CTU) – subject to varietal tolerance	3 – 5.5 l/ha	Tolerate should be applied as soon as possible in the early spring, when the crop has at least 3 tl, and before the end of tillering.	Control of emerged annual meadow grass and broad leaved weeds. Broadens control of Blazer to include mayweed, and some groundsel control.
Lancer, (100 g/kg flupyrsulfuron + 400 g/kg thifensulfuron-methyl). Winter wheat only.	50 g/ha in amg/ blw situations.	From 2 TL of the crop to leaf sheath erect.	Useful on emerged broad leaved weeds, as well as filling in the gaps of Blazer, namely mayweeds, groundsel and cleavers.
Pelican, (500 g/l diflufenican) (Winter wheat & winter barley)	100 – 200 ml/ha	From 2TL of the crop until the end Feb.	Good on emerged broad leaved weeds, in particular improving pansy and cleaver control over Blazer alone.

Other tank mixes for use in cereals:

Blazer+:

Headland Foxtrot EW (fenoxaprop-p-ethyl) (winter wheat only)
 (Bromoxynil + ioxynil)
 BYDV insecticides,
 Tigress (winter barley only).

Tolerate, 5 l/ha + Pelican, 0.2 l/ha will give good annual meadow grass and broad leaved weed control. This may be used until the end of February in the year of harvest. Best results are from applications to small broad leaved weeds.

New stocks of Optica are currently not available until mecoprop-p has received its new Approval However, existing stocks on farm may be used up and this may be included in mixtures where broad leaved weeds have become large. Where mecoprop-p is not available, Headland have a range of co-formulated herbicides, some of which contain mecoprop-p.

For further tank mix and product choice advice, please speak to your Headland Agrochemicals representative.

Pendimethalin is an increasingly important molecule in the portfolio of herbicides available to us. Correct use as part of a tank mix, or treatment programme is essential to maintain future efficacy.

