



Technical Update – Orange Wheat Blossom Midge Control – May 2011

With temperatures higher than average, combined with recent sporadic showers across the country conditions have been perfect to break the Orange Wheat Blossom Midge (OWBM) diapause.

There have already been sightings reported of OWBM, so we should start monitoring crops now for signs of this pest. Weather conditions have caused wheat crops to move rapidly through their growth stages and in some cases crops are at or approaching ear emergence. Therefore vigilance within susceptible varieties will be paramount. Crops this year are also variable in their development, which could extend the period for monitoring of this pest.



If the weather turns wetter, conditions could become ideal for pupation, presenting a high risk in more backward or stressed crops.

Crops should be monitored carefully from the first signs of boot splitting until the beginning of flowering (GS61), with the most susceptible stage being between GS 53 & 59. Treatment should be administered if inspection indicates that thresholds have been met (see below):

- Over one midge on 3 ears for susceptible feed crops.
- Over one midge on 6 ears for milling or seed crops.

Cyren should be used at a rate of 1l/ha in 200 l/ha + of water for the control of adults as well as eggs and newly-emerged larvae on exposed parts of wheat florets.

For further details and discussion, contact your local Headland representative, or:

Andrew C Speed
Technical Sales Manager
Headland Agrochemicals Ltd.
Home office: 01270 750008
Mobile: 07525 703361
E-mail: andrew.speed@headlandgroup.com

Sam J Pocięcha
Technical Sales Specialist
Headland Agrochemicals Ltd.
Home office: 01747 871613
Mobile: 07540 127474
E-mail: sam.pocięcha@headlandgroup.com

