



6th May 2010

Technical Update – Winter Wheat, T2 Fungicide Strategy – A Season for Rubric®

Current weather conditions are causing great problems in the recommendation and application of fungicide products in this year's wheat crops.

Soil moisture deficits are extremely high for this time of year, and the lack of rain for as long as eight weeks in many parts of the country is putting crops under a large amount of stress.

Much of the fertilizer applied is not available to the plant, and it will take a significant amount of rainfall to gain the benefit from these applications. In some cases this nitrogen will be effectively lost.



Yellow Rust

Tillers and leaf area are now being lost, and unless things change greatly in the next week or so, this will have a negative effect on potential yield.

Not surprisingly, *septoria tritici* levels are low. There is some amount of rain forecast in the next few days, enough to cause any spores present to splash up onto new growth resulting in visible symptoms within a couple of weeks.



Septoria tritici

Yellow rust is prevalent on susceptible varieties as may be expected in these higher than average mean temperatures.

A T2 treatment at GS39 is therefore still agronomically important.

There are a number of new products on the market this season, containing novel chemistry. These do promise the potential of yield increases, but on crops that have an inherently high potential yield anyway and are growing well. It is by no means certain that the returns will be as great in situations where crops have lost some of their potential yield, and are under drought stress and nitrogen shortage.

This may be a year to consider a more cost effective fungicide solution.

Rubric (125 g/l epoxiconazole) is in its third commercial season, and has proved to be a reliable and effective product with excellent tank mixing qualities.

Although there is active disease on lower leaves that needs controlling with a triazole, we are in a predominantly protectant rather than curative situation as far as *septoria tritici* is concerned, so the addition of **chlorothalonil** will extend the protection going forwards, subject to maximum dose rates and applications.

The eradication of yellow rust requires a triazole, along with a morpholine such as fenpropidin (**Instinct**) as an eradicator where disease levels are high, for example in the variety Oakley.



All third party trademarks acknowledged
Always read the label. Use pesticides safely
Rubric contains epoxiconazole
Instinct contains fenpropidin

 **CHEMINOVA**

Therefore, our recommendation for T2 is:

0.75 l/ha Rubric + 1.0 l/ha chlorthalonil +/- 0.25 – 0.3 l/ha Instinct

This tank mix is a robust solution for a T2 treatment, that is cost effective so helping to maximise on-farm gross margin.

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

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