



Technical Update – Decisions for a T2½ Spray!

June 1st 2011

In what has been at times a difficult season for fungicide decisions on Winter Wheat, we are approaching the final application for this crop.

Many areas have seen a record breaking drought, putting crops under a lot of stress but keeping levels of *Septoria Tritici* very low. Susceptible varieties have seen high levels of Yellow Rust however, as well as significant infections of Powdery Mildew.

Although crops in the most drought prone areas have already lost tillers and potential yields are down it is important to maximise what remains in an efficient and cost effective fashion.

Following the T1 spray, some advisors have opted to miss the standard T2 timing of GS39 due to little or no apparent disease, and are instead opting for a combined flag leaf and ear wash combination. This will be the last opportunity to apply a fungicide in these crops.

During the past week most areas have received significant rainfall which will have splashed septoria spores up the plant. It should be expected that there will be visible signs of the disease in the near future. It is very important to apply a curative fungicide in this intervening period. The control of Yellow Rust should continue, and a robust dose of Rubric will be a sound and cost effective base to this treatment. A rate of 0.75 l/ha Rubric in this scenario should be considered a minimum.

Where crops are showing stress symptoms it is likely that the inclusion of an appropriate rate of a strobilurin will give yield responses due to retention of green leaf area, as well as a contribution in terms of Yellow Rust control. A 0.5 l/ha dose of either Amistar or Comet may be considered.

Finally, where levels of Powdery Mildew and Yellow Rust are high and giving concern a 0.25 – 0.5 l/ha Instinct treatment would speed up the knockdown of these two diseases.

In summary the recommendation for this "T2½" spray is:

0.75 l/ha Rubric + 0.5 l/ha Amistar / Comet +/- 0.25 – 0.5 l/ha Instinct

Where a T2 has been applied at the more conventional timing of GS39, a so-called ear wash may still be appropriate bearing in mind likely infection levels going forwards. Depending on the T2 application, a triazole with activity on the fusarium diseases in combination with either chlorothalonil or Amistar to help maintain leaf area may be appropriate:

0.5 l/ha Riza + 1.0 l/ha Bravo or 0.5 l/ha Amistar

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 Pociecha
Technical Sales Specialist
Headland Agrochemicals Ltd.
Home office: 01747 871613
Mobile: 07540 127474
E-mail: sam.pociecha@headlandgroup.com



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Bravo contains chlorothalonil
Instinct contains fenpropidin

