



[www.agrivice.com](http://www.agrivice.com)

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## Newsletter – 16<sup>th</sup> August 2007

The drilling season has once again commenced!

### Slugs-

Due to the wet season we are expecting high levels of slug activity and as a result a major threat to oilseed rape crops. It is imperative that ALL rape fields receive a dose of slug pellets as soon as possible after drilling to cover the crop from attack. We are recommending 10kg/ha of a good quality mini pellet such as Luxan Trigger. These fields will need a follow up treatment 7 – 10 days later where necessary. Fields down to direct drilling will ideally need 10 kg/ha prior to drilling and then a follow up treatment of a 7.5kg/ha soon after drilling.

### Pre-emergence

Once rape crops have been drilled, it is essential that the pre-emergence sprays be applied as soon as possible to maximize their effectiveness ideally within 48hrs. The products of choice this year are based around Metazachlor, trifluralin and Centium mixes. For those of you who have not used Centium in the past, it increases the level of control of certain weeds including Cleavers, Fools Parsley, Hedge Mustard, Chickweed and Shepherds Purse.

### Cabbage Stem flea beetle

Cabbage stem flea beetle continues to spread across England and where found can cause massive losses over night. As a result it is crucial that rape seed is treated with Chinock to prevent this, and if it isn't you need to let your agronomist know asap so that the relevant insecticides can be applied. We are currently monitoring levels in field.

### Hybrid seed

We have been fortunate to get hold of some FREE Hybrid seed, which did extremely well in trials this last harvet. Each pack contains enough seed to drill 1ha at a rate of 3.0kg/ha – if any of you are interested in trying some please contact your agronomist.

### **Stale seedbeds**

**Regardless of the method of establishment, please ensure that where ever possible fields are sprayed off prior to drilling – 2.5litres/ha Clinic where volunteers and black grass present, 3 litres/ha where couch grass and 4 litres/ha where thistles are present.**

### **Wheat seed dressings**

**Just a quick note to remind you that where second and third wheats are being grown, we strongly recommend applying Latitude seed dressing to reduce the risk from Take-all. A single purpose seed dressing will also need to be used.**

### **Soil samples**

**Now is a good time of year to collect soil samples which are needed for Crop Assurance purposes and also ELS plans. Please collect around 500grams from each field and let the office know when they are ready to be collected and sent away.**

### **Muck analysis**

**To avoid problems in the spring, please keep a sample of manures applied to your fields for analysis so we can draw up an accurate nutrient management plan and keep on the correct side of the Environment Agency.**

### **Bean samples**

**For those of you who grow winter and spring beans and are looking to home save your seed, it is good practice to get a sample sent away for disease and nematode readings. In order to do this, we need 1kg of seed. Please contact the office if this applies to you.**

### **Agrivice Trial results**

**Please find attached the 2007 Agrivice trial results. We have averaged the yields across the treated plots to give an overall view on each varieties performance. The yields look exceptionally high due to there being no headlands, but can be used as a good guide as they are all relative – Please don't be disheartened if your yields haven't been this high this year – on average yields are down on last year by around 0.75t / acre (1.875t/ha). When making your choice on varieties please do not forget to look at the Septoria ratings of the variety.**