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### **Advisory bulletin : July 23rd 2008**

Some topical issues to consider leading up to the main harvesting time :

- Cereal desiccation
- Home Saved Seed
- Claydon drill
- Slugs : Metaldehyde problems for the water companies
- SOYL : Precision Satellite Sampling

### **Cereal desiccation with Roundup**

To ensure the correct timing for the application of Roundup for wheat , barley or oats , collect 20 grains from various parts of the field ( taken from the center of each ear sampled ) . Press the thumbnail into the grain , if the indentation holds on all the grains , the crop is ready for spraying . Please see the table below for the required rate :

<b>Target</b>	<b>Rate of Roundup (360 gai formulation ) : L / Ha</b>
Green stems and secondary tillers	2 ( or 1.5 of Roundup Biactive )
Couch grass	3
Thistles	4
Willow Herb	6

The harvest interval for cereals is a minimum of 7 days , although complete desiccation may not be evident for up to 14 days . **Please note that if you wish to home save any seed , Roundup products must be avoided on these crops .**

### **Home Saved Seed**

**Winter Oilseed Rape** : As for previous years we have negotiated preferential terms with Anglian Grain Services . Please contact Nigel Day on 01206 - 263334 or Mobile 07860-729787 with your requirements and mention that you are an Agrivice client . Please note that you will have to send double the amount of rape seed that you wish to drill , in order that they can clean it and dress it to the required standard . In terms of moisture content , rape seed must be no higher than 10% . If

you have to dry the rape seed after harvest please ensure that the heat does not exceed 40 degrees C .

For those of you wishing to purchase certified seed , we have negotiated prices on behalf of Agrivice procurement group clients , orders can be placed through the office or via the web site .

Please note that Rovral is no longer approved as a seed treatment for oilseed rape ., We would suggest treating with Chinook and Hypro duet .

**Seed Royalties 2008-09** : are £1.70 / kg + VAT . Increased from £1.54 /kg + VAT last year .

Preparing your Oilseed rape seed for collection : For large quantities please put seed into 0.5 – 1 Tonne bags , 25 – 50 Kg bags are acceptable for smaller quantities , you will need to provide 1.5 to 2 times the weight of seed compared with amount you want to drill , all screenings will be returned to the farm with the clean seed . Unless you specify not to , seed will be germination tested ,

### **Cereals and Pulses**

For those of you considering farm saved cereal seed , we are in the process of negotiating terms with Grainseed at Eye , we don't expect significant changes in terms over last year . The most cost effective option is for you to take your own seed to the site . If you are interested in this please contact John or Simon Hardy on 01379-871073 .

Alternatively if you are interested in a mobile cleaning / dressing service on farm , or at a central point ( to be advised ) , we have negotiated terms with Anglia Grain Services which are the same as last year , if you want to know what these are contact the Agrivice office , the AGS contact is Nigel Day , 01206 - 263334 or mobile 07860 - 729787 , again mention that you are an Agrivice client .

**Grain Royalties** : Current Royalties are as follows : For Wheat seed £34.06 / T , Winter Barley seed £33.06 / T , Spring Barley £37 / T and Beans £44.05 / T ( need to add VAT to all of these ) this will be collected by the processing company and will be in addition to the seed cleaning and dressing costs .

**Wheat Seed treatments** : We would suggest treating seed across the board this year , as generally there is level of fusarium in most fields , Beret Gold is a good single purpose treatment , some current work has shown that mycotoxins may be reduced by the use of this treatment , other brands include Redigo or Kinto .

**Second wheat seed treatments** : in our view Latitude is the best , the most important thing with second wheat is having the right variety and secondly do not drill it too early , if the field has a history of take all or is badly structured or under drained then you should consider the use of Latitude . Last year the cost was £150 / tonne , this year it is likely to be £169 / tonne and it needs to go on with a single purpose drilling as mentioned in the paragraph above .

**Winter Barley** : The best treatment seems to be Raxil Pro .

**Pulses** : usually just cleaned , no seed treatment is necessary .

### **Claydon Drill**

Requests are coming in from clients for Oilseed rape drilling , if any of you are interested in having any drilling done please contact your agronomist or the Agrivice office as soon as possible as the drilling schedule will be on a first come first served basis. As many of you will be aware , the Claydon drill is best suited to drilling Oilseed rape , Wheat and Beans directly into stubble .

Attached are guidelines to get the best from the Claydon drill .

### **Slugs**

The battle against slugs is about to start again , and an issue with Metaldehyde based slug pellets has been raised by the water companies . Analysis of water has founds levels of Metaldehyde well above the statutory limit of 0.1 ppb , even following the 3 phase cleaning procedure that water companies adopt . As a result of this a Metaldehyde review is underway to determine how the active ingredient is getting into water i.e. is it percolating through the soil profile or is it a direct contamination through pellets being spread into watercourses . This review is likely to take about 1 year and in the meantime the Voluntary Initiative is launching a voluntary code of practice with the aim of reducing the levels of metaldehyde in water , if this is not successful a mandatory code may well be introduced .

In essence the VI code of practice details :

- A limit of 750 g/ha : e.g. Luxan Trigger is a 6% formulation which would allow a total of only 12.5 Kg /ha to be applied to an individual field .
- Slug pellets should be treated as any other pesticide and great care taken with their application i.e. avoid windy conditions and ensure that no pellets are spread into ditches or other watercourses .
- A V.I sticker will be provided highlighting the issues of applying metaldehyde based slug pellets .

It is essential that this best practice is followed , if not then the continued use of metaldehyde will be under great threat .

We are looking for a low ai based product in order to increase the number of applications allowed per field and which will also provide sufficient bating points to kill the maximum number of slugs . A good example is that of Slug Lentils which can be applied at 3 Kg/ha . Other cheaper slug pellets are likely to be much less reliable and unlikely to help us to achieve these goals as confirmed by

trials we did last year . We may also need to be looking more to the use of methiocarb based slug pellets as an alternative strategy if the need arises .

**Please Note** : All of this is currently voluntary , however if metaldehyde levels in water do not significantly reduce , legislation is likely to be brought in .

### **SOYL : Precision Satellite Sampling**

As you are all aware we have linked up with SOYL to carry out a soil sampling service . This is based around precision satellite sampling , with analysis and recommendations for P , K , Mg and PH . This system ensures that the crop will receive the required amount of these essential nutrients to achieve true yield potential and also considerable cost savings by avoiding over dosing , you only have to save 4Kg of P / Ha to cover the cost of the SOYL service . This service will be further supplemented in the new year with deep core Nitrogen sampling . If you are interested in any of these services please contact the office or Brendan on 07990 – 972636 .

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