

Step 1 – Prevention and Suppression

To successfully implement an IPM based approach it is important for growers to begin by considering their entire farming system and the practices they implement in order to determine the potential risk associated with their current approaches.

The practices implemented by growers can impact upon one another and can contribute either positively or negatively on risks associated with pest management. Producing a healthy crop is essential in reducing the impact from pests which includes proper soil fertility management (<https://www.teagasc.ie/crops/soil--soil-fertility/>)

There are a number of non-chemical or cultural approaches which can help to prevent and suppress common weed, disease, insect pest and slug issues on arable farms. Growers should be familiar with these as well as have a good understanding of how to identify and determine the risk posed by pests.

These risks should be assessed based on the following:

- Farm history
- Nutrient status
- Cultivation system
- Cropping system
- Variety selection
- Sowing date

The following links are available for further information on key pests in arable crops in Ireland:

Spring Cereals

Weeds in spring cereals:

<https://www.teagasc.ie/crops/crops/cereal-crops/spring-cereals/weeds/>

Diseases in spring cereals:

<https://www.teagasc.ie/crops/crops/cereal-crops/spring-cereals/disease/>

Aphids, leatherjackets and slugs in spring cereals:

<https://www.teagasc.ie/crops/crops/cereal-crops/spring-cereals/pests/>

Winter Cereals

Weeds in winter cereals:

<https://www.teagasc.ie/crops/crops/cereal-crops/winter-cereals/weeds/>

Diseases in winter cereals:

<https://www.teagasc.ie/crops/crops/cereal-crops/winter-cereals/diseases/>

Aphids, leatherjackets and slugs in winter cereals:

<https://www.teagasc.ie/media/website/crops/crops/winter-cereals-pests-homepage.pdf>