Notes

Teagasc Notes for week ending Friday 4th March 2022

Tillage Focus – Mark Trimble, Teagasc, Kilkenny

Winter Barley

· Many crops look more advanced than normal and plant counts are high following good establishment and mild winter.
· Target is for 1100-1200 shoots/sq. m for max yield (2 row).
· Weed control is generally good but specific broad leaved weeds may need attention
· Nitrogen - due to increased cost optimum Nitrogen (N) is 20—35kg lower than last season.
· Target first N from mid-tillering but before GS 30.
· Priority should be given to fields where soil P is low and P is being applied with N.
· Monitor crops for early season disease. Net blotch was evident in continuous barley last autumn. Teagasc experiments have shown that a late tillering fungicide is beneficial when disease is present and spreading onto new growth.

Winter Wheat

· Plant counts are generally good except in situations where late sowing occurred.
· It is too early for nitrogen (N) yet as there will not be enough demand from the crop. Research from Oak Park shows that in normal crops the first application should not be applied until mid-March.
· Reduce N from max. Recommended rates by 20 – 35 Kg/Ha
· Where crops did not receive an autumn herbicide grass weed control will be the priority, options here include Alister Flex, Monolith, Pacifica Plus or Broadway Star depending on the weed species.

Winter Oats

· Oats looking tall at the moment but the internal development of the plant is still not GS30.
· Applying Nitrogen in a 50:50 strategy between GS 30 and GS 32 gives the best balance between yield and quality. Oats has a very good ability to mine the available P & K in the soils and Oak Park research showed that delays in applications do not have a big impact on yield.
· Resent research indicates that oats has a large capacity to produce a large number grains per panicle to compensate for low plant numbers.
· The best PGR strategy seen in trials is a two spilt approach with the first application at GS30/31 followed by a second application at GS32. The second application will have a greater shortening effect than the first.
· Spring herbicide will have to be applied to the majority of crops.

Winter Oilseed Rape

· Total applied Nitrogen and timing should be based on GAI (Green Area Index). There is approximately 50Kg of N/ha in the crop for every unit of GAI. See video on the Teagasc Crops YouTube Channel on early season OSR management.
· Target GAI of 3.5 at start of flowering to deliver maximum yield.
· Apply fungicide for light leaf spot as soon as symptoms appear.
· Forward crops (> 1.0 GAI) will benefit from fungicide with growth regulatory properties at green bud stage

Spring Beans

There is likely to be increased interest in growing Beans again this year as they do not need any fertiliser Nitrogen (N). Beans are legumes and fix atmospheric N which supplies N for growth. Also, the sparing effect on soil N, and the availability of N from decaying roots boosts the yield and reduces the fertiliser N requirement of the following crop. Beans like moisture-retentive soils, so soils that are prone to drying out during a normal summer are not ideal and should be avoided, also beans also perform best when they are drilled early (i.e., early March) and drilling of beans should take precedence over other spring crops. Aim to plant 40-45 seeds/m² to establish 30-35 plants/m². Application of pre-emergence herbicides is essential for effective broadleaved weed control. Main options include; Nirvana 4.0-4.5L/ha, Nirvana 2.5 + Defy 4.0L/ha, Stallion 3.0L/ha and Emerger/Chanon (aclonifen 600g/L). Expected weeds will dictate product choice and rate. The Protein Payment Scheme is available again this season with a total fund of €3m available. The payment in 2021 was €300/ha.

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