

# TILLAGE

November 2022

## BYDV

Barley yellow dwarf virus (BYDV) risk depends on time of sowing, location, weather pattern and type of virus present. Aphid flight is inhibited by rain and wind; therefore, risk of BYDV infection is lower when these conditions prevail. Another important factor when assessing risk is whether a 'green bridge' is present or not, as volunteer cereals and grasses are host species for the grain aphid.

An insecticide application should be targeted.

Cereal crops emerging in November are at much lower risk of BYDV than crops that emerged in October (**Table 1**).

Check if aphids are present in the crop. Look at the headlands because aphids are three times more likely to land near headlands than further out the field. If aphids are present, apply an insecticide at the 2-3 leaf stage of the crop.

Early-sown crops will be at a higher risk of BYDV than later-sown crops. Crops sown in late September/early October may have been treated

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*Inspect crops for aphids before applying an insecticide.*

by now but monitor crops for presence of aphids to determine whether a second aphidicide is required.

While resistance (partial) has been detected among the grain aphid population, pyrethroids (Karate, etc.) will still be effective for the majority of growers. Multiple applications of pyrethroids should be avoided to prevent the development of full resistance, so alternate to a different insecticide group if a second application is required.

Transform is available for use this autumn and there is no known resistance to the sulfoximine class of insecticides (farmers must use these up by May 19, 2023):

- maximum individual dose 48g/ha;

- maximum number of treatments – one per crop; and,
- only allowed on winter cereals from GS12-21 during November, December and January, or between GS39 and GS87.

**Table 1: BYDV risk and control options.**

Sowing	BYDV risk	Control action
Early sown (not recommended)	High	Pyrethroid at 2-3 leaf stage and sulfoximine in early November
October sown	Medium to high	Pyrethroid or sulfoximine in early November
Emerging after November	Low	Control needed in mild winters, where aphids are plentiful or in high-risk areas

## Weed control

Where a pre-emergence herbicide has not been used, apply a broad-acting herbicide at early post emergence. Herbicide selection should be based on weeds present and field history. Priority should be given to the most competitive weeds, e.g., annual meadow grass (AMG), cleavers, sterile brome, charlock and wild oats. Popular weed control options for wheat and barley include Tower 2.0L, Flight 4.0L, Defy 2.0L plus DFF 0.1L, and Firebird 0.3L/Firebird Met 0.5L+. (There are many combinations of these active ingredients available on the market, which can offer flexibility and savings to growers.) For wheat only, Alister Flex is a good contact grass weed option, and Broadway Star (soil temp >8°C) is a strong sterile brome option also for wheat only. It is important to reassess weeds four weeks later and when spring growth



*Target small AMG for best control.*

commences, as many treatments will require a follow-up herbicide.

Beware of herbicide resistance and take steps to minimise its risks on your farm. Most cases of weed resistance occur in situations where herbicides with the same mode of action have been used repeatedly in the same field. Always use full label rates.

## Slugs

Monitor any later-planted crops (especially wheat) for pest attack as soils become wetter. Where you suspect slugs may be a problem lay down some traps using a plastic bag or slate with muesli underneath to attract the slugs. Monitor the traps daily to see the populations. If you see five or more slugs, on average, treatment is warranted on emerging or struggling crops.



*Monitor crops for slug grazing.*

## Winter oilseed rape

The area of winter oilseed rape has increased significantly to an estimated 18-20,000ha this season due to a combination of high forward prices and planting opportunities last August. Crops are generally more forward than normal due to above average temperatures in September, so monitoring for disease is important.

Phoma is common in the autumn and once the threshold of 10% of plants affected is reached the crop should be treated. Light leaf spot is the main disease of rape in Ireland, but

identifying it in the autumn is difficult. To prevent disease, all rape crops should get a fungicide for light leaf spot in November. This will also cover phoma.

Proline or Prosaro are rated the best for light leaf spot control in Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) trials, but other products like metconazole or tebuconazole can also be used. Metconazole and tebuconazole products have some growth regulatory activity, but their impact will be reduced as temperatures drop in November.

## Fertiliser planning

### Soil sampling:

- no phosphorus (P) soil test report, no P allocation in 2023;
- “from January 1, 2023 all occupiers of holdings on all arable land shall take soil tests and shall assume P index 4 until soil tests are taken”;
- take soil samples every 2-4ha (maximum 5ha) to a depth of 10cm and take a minimum of 20 soil cores per sampling area;



*P cannot be applied to tillage fields in 2023 without a soil test report showing that it is required.*

- soil samples are required every four years; and,
- the fertiliser register comes into place on January 1, so plan fertiliser for 2023. Ensure a nutrient management plan (NMP) for the farm is in place for next season.

### Lime

Soil test results show that over the last five years

a large percentage of tillage soils have a lime requirement:

- now is a good time to identify fields that have a lime requirement and plan lime applications over the coming months; and,
- only apply lime based on a recent soil test report and don't exceed 7.5t/ha in a single application.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

### Over 4,500 farm accidents occur annually



Research from the Teagasc National Farm Survey (NFS) has revealed that there were 4,523 accidents on Irish farms during 2020. The data shows over 88% of these accidents involved the farm operator, with a further 11% relating to family members. Farm workers accounted for the remaining 1%. In almost half of cases (47%) the injured persons required more than a three-day absence from farm work, the threshold for legal accident reporting. Over 20% were out of work for between four and 10 days, with 6% unable to work for 11 to 60 days. Close to one-fifth (19%) of those involved in farm accidents

lost 61 or more days of work. Correspondingly, 19% did not lose work time.

This data illustrates clearly the impact a farm accident has on the farmer, the farm family, and the farm business. It is important to take action on your farm to prevent these accidents. Reduced daylight hours over the coming weeks will make it vitally important to plan tasks properly and make allowances for colder weather. Pay particular attention to lighting around the farmyard and on tractors and farm vehicles. Good preparation is essential to cut risks.

### Teagasc tillage podcast

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