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The highest yielding bread-making wheat on the HGCA Recommended List

- Performs very well as first or second wheat
- Very good grain quality
- Outstanding resistance to yellow and brown rust
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- Very stiff straw



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BusinessCrops

NEW THINKING ON WEED CONTROL IN OILSEED RAPE

Promising performance for new treatment

OSR WEED CONTROL

The loss of trifluralin in rape this autumn will mean that growers will have to adjust their weed control programmes and look to include herbicides containing new active ingredients such as dimethenamid-p along with the more traditional metazachlor in their programmes, according to Chris Bean, technical manager for UAP.

Mr Bean states that after last year's difficult start to autumn drilling, growers will be focusing on better establishment techniques, creating a good seedbed and drilling rape early. "If you can get the crop established rapidly, establish a better and more competitive plant stand and get your herbicide on in good conditions, you will get the desired performance out of this crop.

"With regard to weed control, farmer customers are crying out for a replacement treatment for poppy now that trifluralin has gone. This year you can see this weed in profusion in many rape fields, particularly on light chalky soils."

TREATMENT TRIPLE

According to Mr Bean, the three-way combination of dimethenamid-p (200g/litre), metazachlor (200g/litre) and quinmerac (100g/litre) in Shadow has been tested and demonstrated to farmers on a number of UAP sites and could play an important role this autumn.

"Shadow has performed well in trials and on farm especially if used as a pre/post split on these light soils, and is proving to be one of the best herbicide treatments overall. In the past we've used a mix of Katamaran and trifluralin, neither of which are available now, but Shadow is more than capable of replacing them if used correctly," he says.

In UAP trials Shadow gave good control of difficult weeds such as cleavers, crane's-bill, shepherd's-purse and poppy. "Shadow at 2.5litre/ha gave 95-100% control of common poppy and useful control of cleavers, well past 90%.

It also gave pleasing results on shepherd's purse, in the high 80s to low 90s, as well as crane's-bill where it gave just as good control as the market standard Springbok. It also gave between 70-85% control of hedge mustard which is a very difficult weed to kill."

MORE THAN HALF A GRASS

UAP trials also demonstrated that Mr Bean considers Shadow to be a good start to a black-grass control programme in oilseed rape. "Shadow gives between 60-70% control of black-grass. It isn't the full answer, but at this level it's a very useful start to a grass-weed programme."

"Dimethenamid-p looks to be an effective new active and, just as trifluralin appeared to boost the activity of the metazachlor and quinmerac, so does dimethenamid-p."

In terms of timing, Shadow is recommended pre-emergence or early post-emergence from the fully expanded cotyledon of the crop up to seven true leaves of the crop. In UAP trials it was applied at two timings – at 2.5litre/ha pre-emergence at a dose rate of 2.5litre/ha and a split treatment of 1.5litre/ha pre-emergence followed by 1litre/ha post-emergence at the one to two leaf stage of the rape crop.

DON'T STINT

However, Mr Bean warns that trimming dose rates is not an option. "There's a temptation to cut herbicide rates in oilseed rape, because of their expense, but doing so will only lead to weeds such as cleavers, crane's-bill and poppies slipping through. The full recommended dose of Shadow gives good control of a wide range of broad-leaved and grass-weeds and rate cutting will only disappoint.

"It has to be remembered that getting your rape off to a good start is essential if you're going to grow a high yielding crop and removing weed competition early and to a high level is a key factor in this objective," he concludes.