PREMIUMCROPS
LEADERS IN PREMIUM & SPECIALIST CROPS

No: 01/15

SPRING LINSEED BULLETIN

This is the first of a series of bulletins to 2015 Linseed growers. These will cover all aspects of Linseed production and we hope that you will consider the points made in conjunction with your own experiences and those of your agronomist. Please read these notes carefully.

Seed Deliveries

- Seed deliveries are now underway.
- Please check carefully that your delivery matches your order.

Seed Rates

Please check your order confirmation for your correct seed rate, as seed rates differ considerably depending on variety (the range this year is 42 – 64 kg/ha).

Drilling

Any modern drill will handle Linseed easily. Linseed requires a fine firm seedbed, created with as few passes as possible.

- Row widths of 10 – 30 cm show no difference in yields
- Drill at 15 - 25 mm into moisture – we see more problems from crops being drilled too deep rather than too shallow, so you must check. This is particularly important if you are using a newer generation of tine drills.
- Ensure good seed to soil contact
- Do not over consolidate
- If seedbeds are puffy then consider rolling prior to drilling
- Rolling post drilling can be of benefit to conserve moisture, pushing flints/stones out of harms way allowing a lower cut at harvest (which makes cutting easier!) or where a pre-emergence herbicide is to be used.

Drilling Date

1) Linseed requires a good, warm, moist seedbed for rapid and even establishment.

2) You need to be prepared to inspect crops regularly for flea-beetle activity as the crop is emerging.

   If the conditions are right, sowing can commence from end-March onwards. Typically, you should be looking for 5ºC soil temperature and a mild run of weather.

Whitedale Farm
East Street
Hambledon
Hampshire PO7 4RZ
02392 632883

info@premiumcrops.com
www.premiumcrops.com

Registered in England No. 4293590 VAT No. 777 2410 18

Gowers Farm
Tumblers Green
Braintree
Essex CM77 8AZ
01376 333888

Weed Control

Start clean – dirty stubbles should be sprayed off prior to cultivation.

Pre-emergence Weed Control

Callisto offers good control of difficult weeds such as polygonums and fat hen, and is our preferred herbicide option. Best results come from applications onto moist soils immediately after drilling and rolling.

Product	Rate	Water Volume	Notes
Callisto	0.75 – 1.5 lt/ha	200 lt/ha	- Pre crop emergence - Best onto a rolled seedbed - Requires moisture

Callisto has approval under EAMU so use is entirely at grower risk. Using Callisto should remove the need for further post-emergence herbicides.

Grassweeds

With high levels of herbicide resistance to post-emergence grassweed herbicides, Avadex used pre or post drilling of the crop is an excellent tool to manage herbicide resistance and should give full control of Wild Oats and adequate Blackgrass and Brome control. Where control is not full, weeds will be sensitised to later herbicide applications. We recommend:

Product	Rate	Notes
Avadex SG	15 kg/ha	- Apply in front of drill which will then incorporate the granules - Roll post planting - Post planting application is possible but needs moisture - Should be within 24 hours maximum of planting (but the closer the better)

Phosphate and Potash

- Linseed does not make great demands on Phosphate or Potash.
- If your P and K indices are at maintenance levels, application can be done at any stage during the crop cycle.

Yield	P	K	
2.5 t/ha	30 kg/ha	30 kg/ha	Straw incorporated

Nitrogen

Linseed does not redistribute Nitrogen from the stems and leaves to the grains. This means that early Nitrogen to build the crop canopy has little effect on yield (excess Nitrogen at this time can in fact increase lodging risk). The flip side of this coin is that the only determinant of yield occurs after the start of flowering. To short the crop of nutrients and water at that time severely reduces yield.

We can use these facts to rationalise our fertiliser usage as follows:

1. Only apply sufficient Nitrogen early on in the crops life (late March - April) to ensure adequate crop height and canopy development, whilst minimising lodging risk.
2. Apply the balance of Nitrogen towards green bud stage (early May – at least a month after the first application) to ensure optimum yield. If the crop is under drought stress at this time total rates may be reduced
3. In recent years Sulphur deficiency has become an issue with arable crops in most areas of the country so add 30-75 kg/ha of fertiliser Sulphur to the first Nitrogen application depending on deficiency.

Soil Index	Nitrogen Rate	Notes
0	50 kg/ha	Add 30 – 75 kg/ha Sulphur in seed bed or when rows are visible
Higher index & Organic soils	25 kg/ha	

Green bud applications will be described in later bulletins.

Review all Nitrogen applications to ensure adherence to the requirements of RB209

Pest Control

Flea Beetle

- Most seed is dressed with a nutrient complex seed treatment to maximise germination, emergence and root development.
- Rapid establishment is only the first step in control.
- Insecticide applications will probably be necessary particularly as the crop emerges.
- Growers must be vigilant as flea beetle can be absent one day and present the next.

Flea Beetle damage can be widespread and severe for crops under 5 cm tall or in poor growing conditions. Apply an approved pyrethroid insecticide immediately damage is seen. Repeat as required.

Symptoms are holes or notches in the cotyledons or first true leaves. Often 1 – 2 cm black beetles can be seen on emerging plants, especially when sunny.

Do not confuse flea beetle attacks with pigeon grazing – *this is a very common mistake.* Pigeons remove the cotyledon leaves leaving just a stem, flea beetle generally do not do this. Do not assume that because you have only seen one or two pigeons around that they are not capable of significant damage - they could be grazing very early in the morning in greater numbers.

Typical Flea Beetle damage showing 'u' shaped notches

Linseed Seed Growers

Please remember to retain at least 2 labels (of each seed lot sown) from the seed bags.

Always read the label before using pesticides. Use pesticides safely.

17th March 2015