



Spring Linseed Commercial Bulletin

04/18

Linseed crops are at variable growth stages throughout the country, ranging from the start to the end of flowering. In this hot weather crops at the end of flowering are turning quickly. For most growers the Linseed will be harvested straight after their Wheat.



Linseed in Cambridge



Linseed in Hampshire

This Bulletin is for commercial crops only. A separate bulletin will be issued for seed crops

Desiccation

Timely and efficient desiccation is vital for early and easy harvesting.

Despite the hot conditions we are currently enduring, we strongly recommend that all growers desiccate their crops. Desiccation gives even ripening, kills any green material, eases harvesting and helps to ensure that the crop is cut at the earliest opportunity.

There are 2 products to choose from, Diquat and Glyphosate.

Diquat

We recommend the use of Diquat for most situations. It has proved the most reliable choice for an easy harvest is Diquat because it:

- Is quickest acting
- Totally kills the crop before harvest (so cutting is easy)
- Gives longest combing day
- Minimises admixture and drying requirements.

Brown linseed varieties eg Altess, Marquise, Empress

Base the timing of application on Linseed colour, which should be light brown/khaki coloured.

For crops with variable maturity, apply when the latest 50% of the crop has reached the desiccation timing.



Figure 1: desiccation timing for diquat on linseed. Left hand picture too early, right hand picture just right

Yellow Linseed varieties – eg NuLin and Scorpion

For the Desiccation of yellow seeded varieties, the pictures above are not applicable. Yellow linseed varieties will be ready for desiccation with Diquat when the seed has a glossy hue, easily thrashed out and does not have a “sticky” seed coat. Seeds may just rattle in the boll. The overall look of the crop will be the same as for brown seed varieties. The application, timing and interval between spraying and harvest is the same as for brown seeded varieties.

Diquat is used as following:

Product	Rate	Water Volume	Spray Quality
Diquat + Activator 90*	3.0lt/ha + 0.4lt/ha	400lt/ha	Medium

*use Activator 90 at 0.1% of spray volume.

- Always spray in the evening, the desiccation results will be better than when spraying during the day
- Never spray in hot sunny conditions
- Observe correct spray quality and water volume.
- Target the stem, not the crop canopy.
- Typically harvest from 7 days after spraying, although this will be dependent on desiccation timing and weather post desiccation

Glyphosate

Glyphosate based products can be effective, but timing is often tricky to assess, especially in crops where maturity is uneven.

Application made too early, while seed moisture is still high, can result in shrivelled grains and low oil content. If applied too late or in dry conditions, effective desiccation will not be achieved.

Glyphosate would be the product of choice for crops with severe grassweed infestation but should not be used on seed crops.

- The timing of application is based mainly on seed colour of the Linseed and the overall look of the crop.
- The lower leaves will fall off and the stem will still be green (figure 1: plant on the right)
- Seeds will be full sized, plump and ivory (for **both brown and yellow** seeded varieties).
- Pods are likely to be yellowy-lime green in colour.
- If the stem is yellow with no leaves then there will be no effect from glyphosate. However, if perennial weeds need controlling then the application would still be worthwhile from a rotational point of view-i.e. starting to clean.

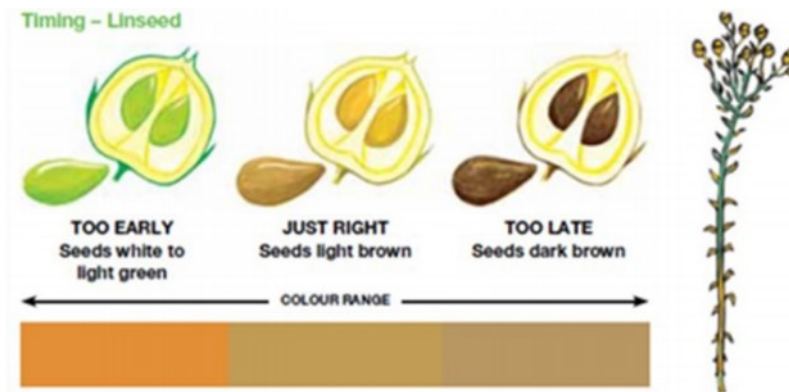


Figure 2: desiccation timing for glyphosate on linseed. The centre is the optimum colour.

Our experience shows that the newer formulations (e.g. Roundup Ace/ Roundup Energy) perform significantly better than traditional generic glyphosate.

- Harvest typically from 14day days after spraying. although this will be dependent on timing and weather post desiccation
- Treated straw not to be used for horticultural mulch.
- Target the stem, not the crop canopy.
- Observe spray quality.

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

CONTACTS

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