



Winter Linseed Bulletin

04/18

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CURRENT CROP CONDITIONS

With a reasonably mild and wet winter this year, the vast majority of winter linseed crops are at target height for leaving the winter (10cm tall) or smaller. All crops have good basal branching, a characteristic of modern winter linseed varieties. While growers may be concerned about small crops, it is perhaps a better situation to be in than to have forward crops of winter linseed at this time of year.

Blackgrass control has been very good, especially where Centurion Max and Crawler applications have been made in sequence to each other. Growers who did not apply Centurion Max will have weed issues to clean up in the early spring.



Typical January weather, Wiltshire

CANOPY MANAGEMENT—PGR AND DISEASE CONTROL

Once growth commences again in the spring, even small crops will grow rapidly. Therefore, it is important to have a growth regulation plan in place. PGR in winter linseed will utilise either Caramba/ Sunorg Pro/ Juventus (metconazole 90g/l) and/or Toprex (Paclobutrazol 125g/l and Difenconazol 250g/l). For control of Pasmio and Kabatiella, growers can tank-mix either Difcor 250 EC or Proline 275 with the Metconazole products. Toprex carries good activity against these diseases and therefore does not need a tank-mix partner.

Premium Crops recommend a two spray programme for maximum PGR benefit and disease control.

Timing	Product	Rate	Water Volume	Typical Height
Early March	Caramba + Difcor 250 EC/ Proline 275	0.8l/ha + 0.5l/ha / 0.6l/ha	100-200l/ha	15-20 cm
Late March	Toprex	0.30l/ha	100-200l/ha	30-35 cm

Toprex carries a strong PGR ability, do not tank mix herbicides with this product. The final application window for Toprex is Green Bud stage.

Continued overleaf

Ensure all PGR's are applied when the crop is actively growing and not under stress from herbicide applications, climatic conditions or nutrient deficiencies.

Check product labels to ensure maximum rates are not exceeded on products.

Toprex has several restrictions on crops following an application. No broadleaf crops, including Oilseed Rape cannot be drilled for 16 months after Toprex has been applied to the field. No potato crops can be planted in the same field until 3 years has passed since the last Toprex treatment.

NITROGEN PLANNING AND FERTILISER USAGE

While many crops are small in terms of top growth, they will have extensive root systems and winter linseed has excellent N scavenging abilities. Linseed does not require much N to get up and running in the spring and only minimum rates should be used in the first split. **Over application of Nitrogen at this stage will significantly increase the risk of lodging.** The balance will be made up in the second split at Green Bud stage, to ensure yield is preserved. Details will be provided in following bulletins.

The initial Nitrogen application is base on crop height.

Crop Height (cm)	First Nitrogen Application (kg/ha)
<15	50
15-20	40
>20	0-30

TIMING OF APPLICATION

The first application of Nitrogen should be at the same time as the first applications to winter wheat, i.e. at the start of spring growth.

P, K & S REQUIREMENTS

Top up any P & K as required. See bulletin 1 for details.

Linseed has a similar Sulphur demand to cereal crop and this should be applied (as sulphate) once the spring has properly started. Rates vary with situation, but 30kg/ha should be the minimum, rising to 60kg/ha for more deficient situations.

MICRO NUTRIENTS

As well as the usual Manganese deficiency, linseed also has a demand for Zinc. On soils with excessively low or high PH, micronutrients availability for a range of nutrients will also be poorer.

Where deficiencies are known to exist, apply trace elements, majoring in manganese and zinc, but also broader spectrum products as appropriate.

Soil pH under 6.0	Soil pH over 7.5
Mg	Cu
Ca	P
P	Fe
Mo	Bo

WEED CONTROL

Where weed control is needed, prioritise grassweed control.

BLW

Many crops have small amounts of Cleavers, Brassica weeds species (Charlock, Runch and Vol.OSR) and Cranse-bill. In this case Eagle is the product of choice. If poppies are an issue, a bromoxynil product (Maya) can be added.

Continued overleaf

Product	Rate	Water Volume
Maya	0.75l/ha	200l/ha
Eagle	20gm/ha	200l/ha

All herbicide applications should be made when the crop is stress free, growing actively and not at risk of frosting.

PIGEON DAMAGE

Pigeons have been grazing crops since December. As OSR crops start to push forward in the next few weeks, thus preventing pigeons from landing in them, they will turn their attention to winter linseed crops. Winter linseed is able to recover from hard pigeon grazing, however prevention is better than cure, so stay vigilant and keep pigeons moving to prevent them from holding a crop back.

Affected crops have the growing tips snipped off and the old growth becomes dark blue/black in colour. New growth from the base of the stem should be more than adequate to compensate for growth.



Pigeon grazing on winter linseed - characteristic removal of growing point

SPRING CROPPING CONTRACTS

Premium Crops have an increased demand this year for Canary Seed and Spring Linseed. If you would like to hear more about these options, please call 02392 632883 and ask for the contracts team.

Always read the label before using pesticides. Herbicide products in this bulletin are approved under Extension of use. Usage under Extension of use is entirely at the grower's risk.

CONTACTS

Our agronomist Hannah Foxall is happy to take your calls on questions or queries you might have.

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6th February 2018

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PICTURES OF THE MONTH



Herefordshire



Wiltshire