

Petworth Monitor Farm meeting report

Meeting 3: Controlling weeds & diseases with and, without livestock

Speakers: Stephen Moss (Stephen Moss Consulting) and Paul Gosling (AHDB)

Date: 6 November 2018

Venue: Medhone Barn, Blackhouse Lane, Petworth GU28 9NZ

cereals.ahdb.org.uk/petworth



Meeting summary – key messages

- There is no silver bullet for black-grass control, consider multiple strategies over a long period
- Don't overlook other grass weeds
- Bromes species need to be correctly identified for effective control
- Disease control in 2019 should be manageable
- To manage resistance, use all the available chemistry, respond to disease pressures and always consider anti-resistance strategies

Controlling black-grass

- Stop the weed seeding – patch spray off and hand rogue before mid-June
- Use cultivations strategically, taking into account the infestation levels on each field
- Delay autumn sowing or move to spring cropping (utilising delayed drilling with pre-em herbicide increases black-grass control by up to 25%)
- Increase competition by increasing seed rates
- Spring barley is the most competitive cereal
- Use herbicides and experiment to find the best pre-emergence herbicide for your own farm.
- Fallowing (>2 years) can be beneficial – possible integration and payment through Countryside Stewardship options GS4 – £309/ha or AB15 £522/ha
- Including cover crops (possible CS option available SW6 £114/ha) and grass (possible CS option AB15 £522/ha / GS4 £309/ha) within a rotation can certainly help promote black-grass / grassweed control. Linking this with livestock can also give additional financial benefits through grazing income, nutrient recycling and, reducing mechanical costs.
- Pre-em herbicide efficacy does depend on soil absorption/biology, regulatory restrictions, timings, product and rates.



- **Remember**, there is no silver bullet for the control of black-grass. It is down to perseverance to find out what systems work best on your farm.

5 point strategy to black-grass control:

1. Stop the weed seeding – patch spray off and hand rogue before mid-June
2. Use cultivations strategically, taking into account the infestation levels on each field
3. Delay autumn sowing or move to spring cropping
4. Increase competition by increasing seed rates
5. Experiment to find the best pre-emergence herbicide for your own farm



- **Other grass weeds shouldn't be overlooked:-**
 1. Bromes – There are 5 species and correct identification is essential for right control – see [Identification and control of brome grasses](#). Great brome more challenging to control than sterile brome
 2. Italian ryegrass – is twice as competitive as black-grass and produces 10x as many seed per plant.
 3. Common wild oat (*Avena Fatua*) is more wide spread than winter wild oats (*Avena sterilis*)

Disease control

- Disease control in cereals in 2019 should be manageable
- Use all the available chemistry to manage resistance
- Respond to disease pressure
- New chemistry for septoria should be available for 2020 but it will be vulnerable, use anti-resistance strategies at the outset
- More disease resistant varieties make IPM more viable



- Utilise disease forecasts, drilling dates, alternative chemistry
- Farming is not going to get any easier, but it will be more interesting
- Make use of [Recommended List](#) varieties that have a higher septoria and brown rust rating

New wheat varieties for 2019/2020

	New	New		New	New
	KWS Extase	KWS Firefly		LG Skyscraper	LG Spotlight
Group	2	3	Group	Soft 4	Soft 4
UK Yield	101	102	UK Yield	106	104
Lodging with PGR	8	8	Lodging with PGR	7	8
Yellow rust	9	9	Yellow rust	8	8
Brown rust	7	8	Brown rust	5	6
Septoria	8.1	7.0	Septoria	5.2	5.2
Weakness	Eyespot [4]	Eyespot [4]	Weakness	Eyespot [4]	

What will you grow – and how?

Find out more – Links to AHDB information sheets or research

[Identification and control of brome grasses](#)

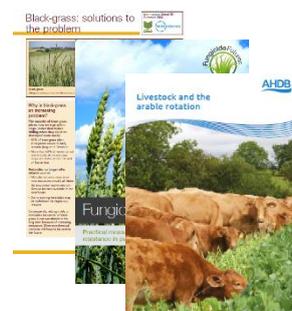
[Livestock and the arable rotations](#)

[AHDB Recommended Lists for cereals and oilseeds](#)

[Practical measures to combat fungicide resistance in pathogens of wheat](#)

[Practical measures to combat fungicide resistance in pathogens of barley](#)

[Black-grass: solutions to the problem](#)



Next meeting

Date: 24 January 2019

Topic: Foliar nutrition, biostimulants and precision farming

Time: 10.00

Location: Medhouse Barn, Petworth GU28 9NZ

For more information or to find out more about Farmbench, AHDB’s benchmarking tool, contact: Paul Hill

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