

Autumn Management

The 2019 harvest has been intermittent so far, however early indications look positive. Hopefully the weather will improve for the remaining grain and straw to be harvested. We would like to wish all our customers a bountiful and safe harvest.

BYDV

Planning without Redigo Deter seed dressing is going to mean a change of strategy for autumn crop management. Redigo Deter had two components, Redigo (prothioconazole) being a standard fungicidal dressing to control seed borne disease plus Deter (clothianidin) the only available insecticidal dressing for control Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus (BYDV) and the prevention of seed hollowing by slugs. There are several strains of BYDV which are transmitted by different types of aphids. In Ireland, the Grain Aphid is the most common type, while we also have Rose-Grain Aphid and Bird Cherry Aphid. In the autumn, the virus is spread by two methods, firstly through direct transfer by wingless aphids living on hedges, grass or on volunteer cereals which move through the soil colonising the emerging cereal crop and secondly through indirect transfer by winged aphids flying into newly emerged crops from grass or volunteer cereals elsewhere. BYDV introduced by winged aphids flying into crops is generally more common. Once these aphids land in the crop they reproduce a new generation after 170 degree days (10 days at average temperature of 17°C).

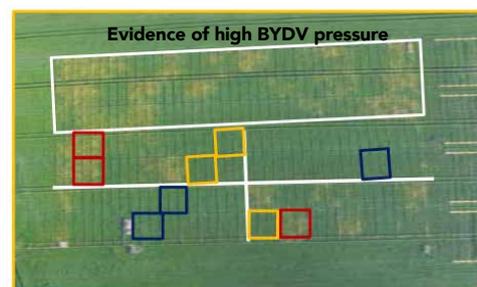
Reducing the risk of BYDV

Integrated pest management is the main method of reducing the risk of BYDV, delayed drilling until mid October, avoiding green bridge carry over from volunteers or grass and establishing a vigorous healthy crop are the main steps.

Delaying drilling until October is more than likely going to lead to a reduction in the area of winter barley, therefore crop rotation is going to play a vital role. Winter oilseed rape sown in August or spring beans sown in March are excellent break crops and also spread the workload at sowing and harvest time. The only available chemical control is Pyrethroid insecticides (Lambda/Karis) applied at the 2-3 leaf stage and for earlier sown crops, a repeat application in November, depending on weather. However, there has been some resistance to Pyrethroid insecticide found in the area so careful monitoring is required.

BYDV control

Winter barley, Cassia sown 12th October, Cork



Untreated Pyrethroid Seed Treatment

Source: Teagasc 2019

Cover Crops

As part of the GLAS programme, a number of tillage farmers have chosen to grow cover crops. Earlier sown crops will be the most beneficial as conditions will favour rapid establishment and growth. The aim of cover crops is to cover the ground during a fallow period after harvest. This makes them ideal for planting prior to a spring crop.

Benefits of using Cover Crops

There are many benefits of cover crops and you do not need to be part of the GLAS programme to reap the benefits. These include:

- Fixing soil Nitrogen (N)
- Suppressing weeds
- Improving soil structure
- Increasing soil organic matter
- Provide additional winter forage for grazing

What's available?

There are different cover crop options available to suit different situations, from complex soil improvers to simple grazing mixes. Crop rotation needs to be considered when choosing a cover crop as most are either brassicas or legumes, which are closely related to oilseed rape and beans.

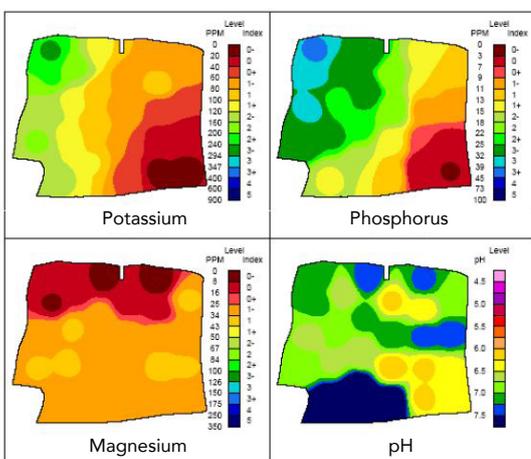
Soil Testing

Now is the time to check soil samples are up to date. Fields should be sampled every 3 – 4 years, as regular soil testing provides vital information and facilitates accurate fertiliser and lime application plans. Plants require a combination of major, secondary and micro-nutrients to reach their potential.

Soil Nutrient Level Field Summary

Field Name: Field 1

Area: 23,47 Ha



GPS Soil testing
(1 sample per Ha) 1

Brett Brothers Soil Services

Brett Brothers carry out a full range of standard soil tests through Lancrop Laboratories and precision farming soil nutrient maps through Soyl. With recent TAMS grants, a lot of fertiliser spreaders have been updated and are capable of variable rate fertiliser application. This allows a more precise nutrient application and a better return on investment on the application of lime, Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K). After harvest is an ideal time to address lime deficiencies.

Grass Weeds

Grass weeds and volunteer cereals have become a bigger problem in recent years due to the increased area of winter crops. Sterile Brome and Meadow Brome are the biggest issue in this area and there is no quick fix to this problem.

What's the best approach when tackling grass weeds?

A multi-faceted approach is needed, including crop rotation, chemical weed control and using certified seed.

Shallow, stubble cultivations will encourage both brome and volunteer cereals to germinate and facilitate desiccation with glyphosate. Cultivations should be no deeper than 2 cm, if cultivations are too deep, weed seeds can be buried and become dormant, creating bigger weed problems in the future.

There have been confirmed samples of Black-grass found in our local area this season. A zero-tolerance approach needs to be taken if you find Black-grass. There is no chemical control, the best control method is to sow grass in the field for 5 years. A move to spring cropping combined with good ploughing can reduce the seed population.

What does Black-grass look like?

Combine drivers need to be familiar with identifying Black-grass and cleaning down combines and balers in problem fields to prevent the problem spreading.



Black-grass in wheat