

# Managing weeds in arable rotations – a guide

# Introduction

## Weed management

**Weed control is vital for high yields of good quality crops and to prevent the spread of pests and diseases, eg ergot. But with fewer active ingredients, a need to protect water and manage herbicide resistance, the weed challenge must be managed across the rotation.**

**Weed control is more than just using herbicides. Many factors determine weed incidence and effective weed management in arable crops requires integration of them all:**

- Crop choice and rotation
- Managing the weed seedbank
- Cultivations
- Drilling date
- Crop competition
- Herbicide choice, application and timing
- Recent weed control strategies
- Weather
- Agronomist/farmer perceptions.

**The aim of this publication is to provide a practical guide for farmers and agronomists that brings together recent research to allow improved weed management through a rotation dominated by autumn-sown crops.**

Weed control has always been challenging but has become even more difficult because:

- herbicide availability has declined,
- there are no new modes of herbicide action currently available,
- herbicides are being found in water and
- herbicide resistance is increasing.

Improving weed management means:

- Getting the most out of cultural control and maximising herbicide performance.
- Keeping weed populations low for good weed and resistance management.
- Planning weed control across the full rotation as this is now essential.

From 1 January 2014, the EU Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (2009/128/EC) requires farmers to adopt Integrated Pest Management, with priority given, wherever possible, to non-chemical methods of plant protection. For weed control, the challenge is to integrate crop choice/rotation, drilling date, cultivation method, herbicide use, resistance management and environmental protection.

These issues are also inter-related, for instance a range of different crop species widens both chemical and cultural opportunities to control grass and broad-leaved weeds.

Properly managed weed control through a rotation can reduce costs whilst limiting the build up of resistance, maintaining yields, protecting water quality and enhancing biodiversity.



This guide is different because it treats resistance management as an essential part of rotational weed management.

Therefore, the Weed Resistance Action Group Guidelines together with practical information on cultural control and herbicide use are fully integrated within this publication.



See pages 13–17.

# Weed management toolbox

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Knowing your weeds and their biology is essential. *The Encyclopaedia of Arable Weeds* ([www.hgca.com/awe](http://www.hgca.com/awe)) provides important additional information.

**6 Managing the seedbank**  
Understanding the seedbank is at the heart of better weed management. Cultivation strategies can be optimised to reduce weed numbers, while management can be more predictive and preventative.

**7 Cultivation**  
Cultivation is not just about crop establishment, it also changes weed populations. The extent of seed burial and mixing influences weed numbers. The gap from harvest to drilling gives different opportunities and benefits.

**8 Crop choice**  
Crops and their sequence in the rotation determine the weeds present and the opportunities for control. A diversity of crops enables a range of practices and herbicide options. Including autumn and spring sown crops within a rotation increases the range of weed species and reduces overall numbers.

**9 Drilling date**  
Drilling date influences weed emergence and the window for weed control – a key time for many management options. Intensity of crop competition is also influenced by drilling date.

**10 Optimising herbicide timing**  
The right product applied at the right time with the correct spray quality maximises control from a herbicide. Often a sequence of herbicides is required.

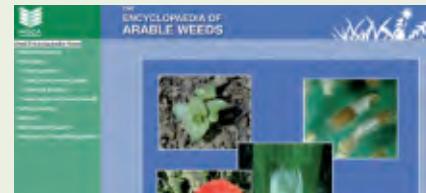
**11 Protecting water quality**  
Following industry best practice guidelines to prevent herbicides reaching water courses is a vital part of maintaining the range of products for weed control.

**12 Effective herbicide application**  
Application techniques, weather conditions, nozzle choice and spray volumes all affect herbicide performance.

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It is vital to minimise the risk of herbicide resistance. This requires a combination of cultural and herbicide control. Know your risks through sampling and assess herbicide performance. Follow the latest WRAG guidelines.

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# Weed biology

## – understanding weeds improves their management

### Crop competition

The damage weeds cause depends on:

- weed species
- weed density
- competitive ability of the crops
- growth stage when weeds compete.

While some weeds are highly competitive, others pose little threat and may be valuable to wildlife. Weeds can delay ripening and harvesting, eg cleavers in oilseed rape, or impair produce quality, eg volunteer potatoes in peas (Table 1).

**Table 1: Competitive ability of common arable weeds in wheat**

Competitive ability (number of plants/m <sup>2</sup> that would typically result in a 5% yield loss in wheat)	Weed (Species in <i>italics</i> have a high feed value for seed-feeding birds and herbivorous insects)
Very competitive (0–5)	barren brome, cleavers, Italian rye-grass, wild-oat.
Competitive (12–17)	black-grass, black-bindweed, <i>charlock</i> , common poppy, <i>creeping thistle</i> , <i>scentless mayweed</i>
Moderately competitive (up to 25)	<i>chickweed</i> , <i>fat hen</i> , forget-me-not, <i>redshank</i>
Less competitive (50 and above)	common fumitory, scarlet pimpernel, shepherd's-purse, dove's-foot crane's-bill, red dead-nettle, annual meadow-grass, knot-grass, groundsel, common speedwell, field pansy

Information taken from: Marshall EJP, Brown VK, Boatman ND et al. (2003). The role of weeds in supporting biological diversity within crop fields. *Weed Research* 43, 77–89.

### Weed germination

Weeds emerge at different times and the interaction between weed and crop growth is important. Most problems occur when weeds and crops emerge at the same time. Being able to predict when a weed germinates can help determine the most appropriate control methods.

### Non-chemical weed control

Non-chemical techniques are increasingly important to reduce weed numbers and the need for herbicides, so reducing the risk of resistance developing. However, increasing the number of species increases biodiversity (Table 2).

**Table 2: Non-chemical options for weed control**

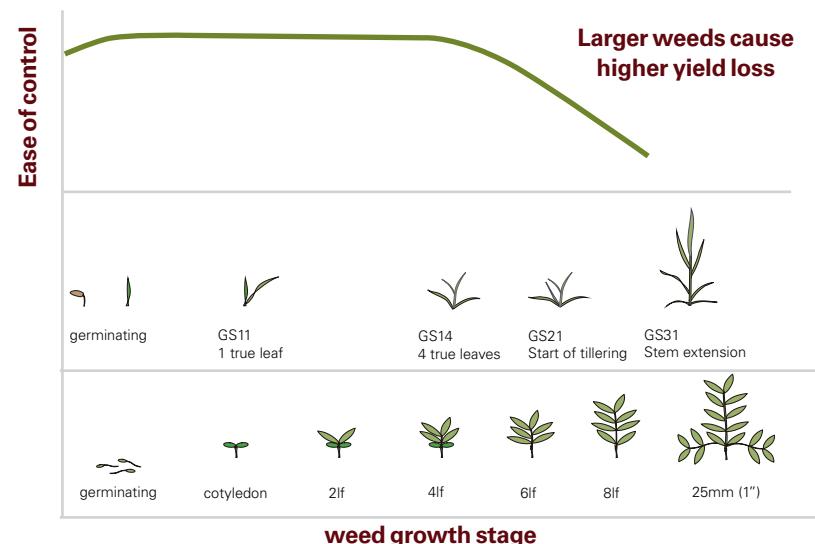
	Potential to:		Example
	Decrease numbers	Increase number of species	
Spring crop	+++	+++	Black-grass control in wheat*
Fallow	+++	++	70–80% per year (of seedbank)
Rotational plough	+++	+	69%
Delayed drilling	++	+	31%
Higher seed rates	+		26%
Competitive variety	+		22%
Mechanical weed control	(+)		(+)
Minimising weed seed dispersal	(++)		(++)

+++ high, ++ moderate, + low, ( ) limited experience

\*from Lutman, Moss, Cook and Welham (2013)

### Weed size and crop growth stage

Small weeds are generally easier to control (Figure 1), but very small weeds may be less easy to kill with herbicide due to small areas of spray contact.

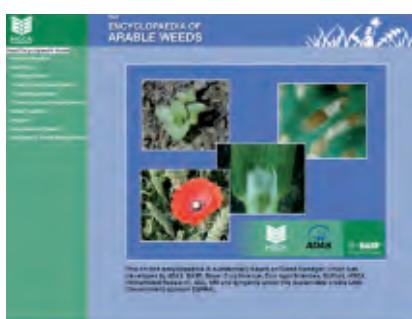


**Figure 1: Ease of control declines as weeds grow**

**Table 3: Germination periods of common weeds**

Timing	Common weeds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spring	black bindweed, black mustard, charlock, common orache, fat hen, fool's parsley, hedge mustard, hemp-nettle, knot-grass, pale persicaria, redshank, spring wild-oat, volunteer oats												
Early summer	black nightshade, scarlet pimpernel, sun spurge												
Mainly autumn with significant spring flush	cleavers, common poppy, field pansy, forget-me-not, scentless mayweed, small nettle, thistles, volunteer barley, volunteer oilseed rape, volunteer peas, volunteer wheat, wild radish												
Mainly autumn	barren brome, black-grass, Italian rye-grass, loose silky bent, meadow brome, volunteer beans, winter wild-oat												
All the year	annual meadow-grass, common chickweed, common field speedwell, crane's-bill, fumitory, groundsel, mayweeds, red dead-nettle, shepherd's-purse, thistles												

Germination      under 5%      5%-20%      over 20%



For more information on the biology of weeds, see:  
*The Encyclopaedia of Arable Weeds*  
[www.hgca.com/awe](http://www.hgca.com/awe)

# Managing the seedbank

## – the heart of all good weed control

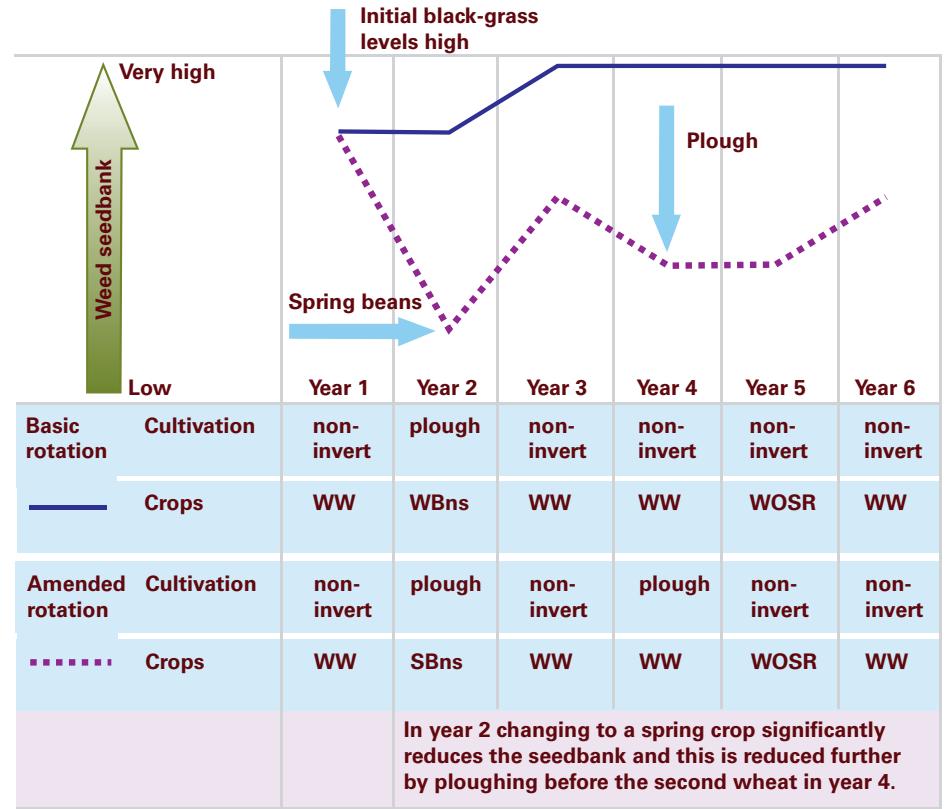
Soil contains many weed seeds – the ‘seedbank’. This increases and decreases as both weeds and crops set and shed seeds. Weed seeds are spread within fields by the combine spreading straw at harvest and by cultivations.

Weeds emerge each year, generally only from the top 5cm. Cultivations stir up the seedbank burying freshly shed seed and bringing seed, from lower down the profile, to the surface. Depending on species, some buried seed will become dormant and survive for many years, some will germinate, some decay and some will be eaten by wildlife eg birds and insects.

### Imported weed seeds

Most of the seedbank comes from local weeds, but some seeds may be imported on machinery or in crop seed. Manure and slurry applications may spread weeds from hay or bedding. Composting, drying manure or storing it for over eight weeks reduces the risk. Sewage sludge may contain weeds depending on how it is processed. Compost which conforms to the BSI PAS 100:2011 standard should be free of weed seeds; however, the equivalent standard for products of anaerobic digestion, BSI PAS 110:2010 (digestate, separated liquor and separated fibre), does not contain a requirement to test for weed seeds. Research is ongoing to determine if weed seeds can survive the anaerobic digestion process.

**Figure 2: How changing crop type, cultivation and date in a heavy land rotation affects black-grass**



SBns = spring beans    WBns = winter beans    WOSR = winter oilseed rape    WW = winter wheat

### Depth of weed seeds

Weed seeds are distributed throughout the soil profile, but usually only emerge from the top 5cm; those buried deeper, apart from a few larger seeded species, eg barren brome and cleavers, seldom emerge. This is a key point when planning weed control strategies.

Weed seeds are not viable for ever and have a natural death rate that varies dramatically between species (Table 4). For example, barren brome seeds cannot survive in the soil for more than a year but common poppy can persist for more than 50 years. The rate of natural seedbank decline will determine the short-term effectiveness of seedbank management.

**Table 4: Weed seed longevity**

Longevity	Grasses	Broad-leaved weeds
Under 1 year	soft brome, rye brome, barren brome, volunteer cereals and oats	volunteer sunflower and linseed
1–5 years	perennial rye-grass, black-grass, winter wild-oat	chickweed, crane's-bill, creeping thistle and mayweed
Over 5 years	wild-oat, loose silky bent, Italian rye-grass, orache and many others	black bind-weed, charlock, common poppy, speedwells and volunteer rape

It is not necessary to count weed seeds in a soil profile, germinating weeds in an untreated area give a good indication of weed infestation.

### Changing rotation to reduce the weed seedbank

The Weed Manager programme (Project Report 388) can predict weed seedbank levels through a rotation and has been used to derive Figure 2 and evaluate suggested improvements in the case studies (pages 18–22).

#### To reduce the weed seedbank

- Encourage weeds to germinate by changing crop type, cultivation timing and drilling dates.
- Prevent weeds from setting and shedding seed.

# Cultivation

## – changes weed population as much as crop establishment

### Stubble cultivation

Shallow cultivation, immediately after harvest can stimulate weed seed germination, especially barren brome and volunteer cereals. For best effect soil must be moist. However, cultivations prevent mammals and birds eating weed seeds. Stubble cultivation reduces annual meadow-grass.

### Primary cultivations

Apart from stubble cultivation, the 'primary' cultivation is the first one to prepare soil for the next crop.

Cultivations may be classified into four groups (Table 5) and are a balance between bringing older seed from depth and burying newly-shed seed.

### Plough

Ploughing is unique as it inverts soil, burying 95% of freshly-shed seed to 15-20cm, but brings up 35% of old seed. Subsequent cultivations are more shallow so buried seed is not disturbed. Most weeds germinate from seeds shed in previous seasons. The effectiveness and optimum frequency of ploughing will depend on the longevity of the weed seed in the soil (Table 4) and will be most effective for species with short-lived seed, such as barren brome and black-grass.

### No-till

With no-till, including Autocasting, the soil is only cultivated by the drill. Weed seeds are predominantly in the top 3cm, but some smaller seeds move down soil cracks.

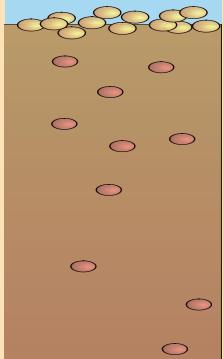
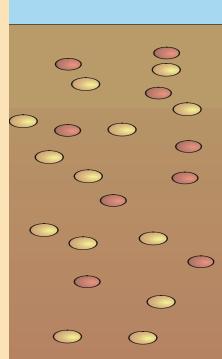
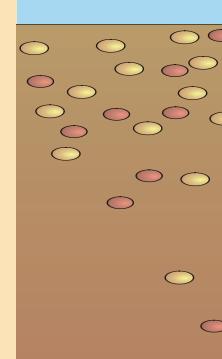
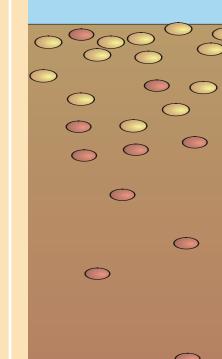
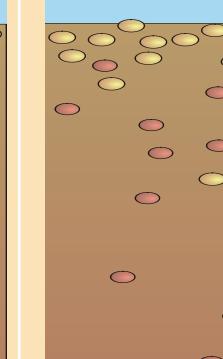
### Other

Subcasting, using a subsoiler or modified cultivator, results in freshly-shed seed falling down cracks but with little soil mixing. Using discs leads to more mixing – equivalent to deep or shallow till.

### Deep till and shallow till

Non-inversion tillage mixes the upper layer to a set depth. Germinating weeds are a mix of newly-shed seeds and those from previous seasons. About half the seed is buried below germination depth and 10% of old seed returns to the surface.

Table 5: Cultivation options and effect on weed seedbank

Cultivation	After harvest	Plough	Deep till	Shallow till	No-till
<b>Soil movement</b>		Inversion	Deep	Little	No mixing
<b>Cultivations depth</b>		Over 5cm, inverted	Over 5cm	Under 5cm	None
<b>Example</b>		Plough	Discs over 5cm	Discs under 5cm	No-till drill
		Many old seeds brought to surface, most new seeds buried.	Fewer old seeds brought to surface, some new seeds buried.	Very few old seeds brought to surface. Few seeds added to the seedbank.	A few seeds may change layers.
<b>Soil depth</b>					
<b>5cm</b>					
<b>30cm</b>					
<b>Weed control</b>		Generally reduces weed populations.	Has little effect on weed populations.	Keeps weed seeds in top 5cm of soil where they can germinate.	Keeps weed seeds in top 5cm of soil where they can germinate.

# Crop choice

## – the essential building block of any weed management strategy

### Crop choice

Choice of crop affects many things, including the time of drilling, the type and timing of cultivations and the range of herbicides available. Some crops compete better than others with weeds (Table 6).

### Rotations

The ideal rotation should include a balance of different crops. The aim is to provide an economically successful sequence which breaks pest and disease cycles, improves weed control, prevents erosion with crop cover and improves nutrient cycling and soil condition.

**Table 6: Comparison of spring- and autumn-drilled crops**

	Number of herbicide actives available*	Competition with weeds*	Benefits	Disadvantages
<b>Winter sown</b> Well suited to heavy soils. Usually higher yielding. Provides overwinter crop cover.				
<b>Cereals</b>				
Wheat	++++	+++		
Barley	++++	++++		
Oats	+++	++++		
Rye	+++	++++		
<b>Broad-leaved crops</b>				
Beans	++	++		
Oilseed rape	++	++++	Herbicides with no known resistance available.	Cannot delay drilling. Most BLW control must be pre-em. Volunteers can be a problem.
<b>Spring sown</b> Spreads workload. Changes weed species and numbers. Good for biodiversity. Less suited to heavy soils.				
<b>Cereals</b>				
Barley	++++	++++		
Wheat	++++	+++		Minimise cultivations on light soils if drought is a problem.
Triticale	+++	+++		
Oats	+++	++++		Difficult to control grass weeds.
Rye	+++	++++		
<b>Broad-leaved or other crops</b>				
Beans	++	++		Late sowing can lead to a late harvest.
Peas	++	+		Delayed sowing reduces yield.
Oilseed rape	++	++++		Few herbicide options. Susceptible to drought at drilling. Volunteers can be a problem.
Sugar beet	+++	+++	Multiple low dose systems for weed control. Can be mechanically weeded.	High capital investment. Poorly competitive initially. Very late harvest.
Potatoes	++	++++	Can use non-specific herbicides. Good competitor with weeds.	High capital investment. Can leave volunteers.

\*Ranging from ++++ high to + low

BLW = broad-leaved weed(s)

Pre-em = pre-emergence

# Drilling date

## – has a major effect on weed species and number

The interval between harvesting one crop and drilling the next is important, as a non-selective herbicide can be used on emerged weeds. Delaying drilling increases the time available for weed control but it can reduce subsequent crop competitiveness, although increased seed rate can help compensate. The effectiveness of delayed drilling will depend on the germination period of the weeds (Table 3) and will be most effective for weeds with low dormancy and a clear autumn flush.

All emerged weed seedlings should be killed before drilling, ideally with a non-selective herbicide. Cultivations,

especially in moist soils, will not kill seedlings and surviving plants will be larger and more difficult to control.

Where possible wait for a weed flush before drilling. Drill fields with low weed populations first, leaving those with high grass weed burdens until last.

### Weather conditions

Dry weather between harvest and drilling minimises weed emergence, but crops will not emerge either. Dry soils and dry weather reduce the effectiveness of pre-emergence herbicides.

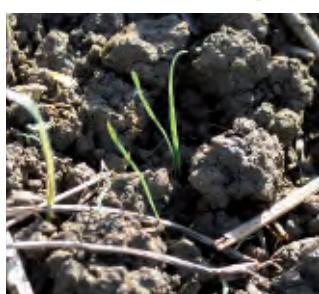
### Maximising crop competition

A crop's ability to compete is a product of seed rate and drilling date. Lower rates leave more space for weeds to establish but early drilling means crops have longer for tillering and so are more competitive than those drilled later.

Crop establishment declines in cereals drilled after mid-October, seed rates should be increased to maintain yield. Late emerging weeds are less competitive and produce fewer seeds.

The window for drilling winter barley is narrower than for winter wheat. A low vernalisation requirement means barley is less suited to very early drilling while yield declines rapidly when drilled after mid-November.

Variety choice affects crop competition. Some cereal varieties reduce the competitive effect of weeds by over 30%.



### Black-grass

Understanding dormancy and the effect of weather and soil conditions is important (Table 7). Weather during ripening determines black-grass dormancy. Low dormancy occurs in warm, dry conditions and seeds will grow rapidly if moisture is not limiting. In some years black-grass germinates as the crop ripens. Conversely, cold wet weather leads to high dormancy and delayed black-grass emergence from seed shed in the current season.

**Table 7: Dormancy and management of black-grass**

	High dormancy	Low dormancy
Pre-harvest glyphosate application	No effect.	Check and treat if black-grass is emerging in wet conditions.
Black-grass emergence	More protracted, 90% emergence 60 days after drilling.	90% emergence 30 days after drilling.
Cultivations	Plough – unless low weed populations.	Non-inversion.
Drilling	Early encourages crop competition.	Delay for maximum weed emergence.
Pre-em herbicide	Use robust mixture with a herbicide residual component.	Apply immediately after drilling.
Post-em herbicide	Could be delayed but add a residual if applied early.	Apply early, once most germination is complete.



### Wild-oat

Delayed drilling allows a longer period for predation and seed germination.



### Bromes

Shallow cultivate barren and great brome seeds to bury them as soon as possible after harvest unless chopped straw provides good seed cover.

Meadow, soft and rye brome seeds are usually under ripe and burial immediately after harvest enforces dormancy. Leave seeds to ripen for one month before cultivating.



### Annual meadow-grass

Delayed drilling has little effect.

### Italian rye-grass

Seed dormancy is short-lived and most seed emerges by November. Delayed drilling reduces populations.

Brome emerges quickly in moist soil and dormancy has little effect on emergence. Wait until brome has emerged and spray off with glyphosate pre-drilling.

# Optimising herbicide timing

## – to improve effectiveness and increase value

Herbicides form a large part, typically 20-30%, of the variable costs associated with producing a crop. Product labels and technical support can provide growers with information to optimise herbicide effectiveness, but general principles apply to all crops (Table 8).

**Table 8: Optimising herbicide timing in autumn-sown crops – factors to consider**

Herbicide timing	Aim	Mode of action	Advantages	Disadvantages
Pre-drilling	Encourage weed growth. Control weeds from harvest to drilling.	Contact	Can use non-selective herbicides, which reduce resistance risk.	Early drilling shortens time for weeds to emerge and be controlled.
At drilling	Apply before crop or weeds emerge (pre-em), within 24-48hrs of drilling. Control weeds until end of winter.	Residual	Prevents weed establishment. Essential building block of grass weed control; only effective timing for some species/herbicides. Limited resistance to pre-em herbicides.	Poor weed control where seedbed quality is poor or seedbeds are dry. Crop seed depth, or soil cover, can be an issue with some herbicides.
Autumn/winter	Control later germinating weeds or escapees from pre-emergence treatments. Target weeds when small.	Residual Contact	Weeds visible to identify which aids product choice.	Control more difficult if weeds are large. Soils can be too wet. Stressed crops. Large crop canopies. Resistance problems common. Beware cold temperatures which can reduce efficacy of some herbicides.
Spring	Control spring germinating weeds. Tidy up winter escapees.	Contact Some residual	Weed spectrum visible.	Large weed size. Sometimes too late for certain species. Target crop growth stage is missed.
Pre-harvest	Control late germinating and perennial weeds.	Contact	Ideal timing for perennial weeds.	Few species at correct growth stage. Some weed seed set. Some crop market restrictions.

### Cereal herbicides

Effective grass weed control is essential in rotations with autumn sown crops. Mixtures (several products applied together) or sequencing/stacking (several products applied in close succession) are more effective at controlling grass weed populations than individual products. Pre-emergence options are less affected by resistance and should form a key part of a cereal herbicide programme.

### Black-grass

Recent research shows flufenacet is a key active in programmes but a further 2-4 actives are necessary to achieve good control. Commercially acceptable control is more likely where untreated populations are under 100 heads/m<sup>2</sup>.

### Annual meadow-grass

Herbicides are necessary to control this weed as it germinates throughout the season and cultural methods have very little effect. Both pre-emergence and post-emergence strategies can be very effective.

### Barren, or sterile, brome

Cultural methods, eg ploughing and delayed drilling, can give good control otherwise a sequence of pre- and post-emergence herbicides is necessary.

### Oilseed rape herbicides

Spring herbicide options are limited in oilseed rape and weed control decisions need to be made prior to drilling.

Establishment methods and weeds present affect control options:

- where shepherd's-purse and/or cleavers is predicted, a robust pre-emergence treatment – based on metazachlor – is required. Rape seed must be well covered by soil to a depth of 15mm.
- for black-grass and other grass weeds, herbicides such as propyzamide are more effective after no, or very shallow cultivation. Where deeper cultivations are used adding a graminicide ('fop' or 'dim') will improve the level of control.

# Protecting water quality

## – essential to protect the product choice available

The importance of keeping pesticides out of water courses is increasing. EU and UK water quality legislation may affect or restrict use of several herbicides, particularly those used extensively, as well as those used at high rates and applied at times of year when drains may be running or there is potential for run-off to watercourses. The result of new legislation could be restrictions on rate and/or timing, with product withdrawal as a last resort.

A small number of approved pesticides are detected regularly in surface water (Table 9). Herbicides can enter water in a wide range of ways:

**Stores** hold concentrated chemicals; a fire or leak can have a huge impact downstream.

**Drips or spills** of concentrated chemical at sprayer filling can wash off concrete or hardcore into drains and water courses.

**Over-spraying watercourses** is careless and jeopardises aquatic life and water quality.

**Drift** concerns neighbours and can harm aquatic life and water quality.

**Drain flow** is the main way herbicides leave the field in the winter months.

Herbicides attached to soil particles, or in drainage water, enter water courses when drains are flowing.

**Surface run-off** carrying soil and pesticides can occur on most soils and slopes after heavy rain and can be channelled by tramlines.

**Cleaning sprayers** produces large quantities of dilute pesticide which can easily reach drains if poorly managed.

**Disposing of pesticide containers** by burial is illegal and can cause long-term damage to water quality.



**Table 9: Some herbicides detected in water and best practice to avoid risk**

	metazachlor	propyzamide or carbetamide	clopyralid	mecoprop-P
Main crop(s)	Oilseed rape	Oilseed rape Beans	Cereals Oilseed rape	Cereals Grassland
Best practice	Apply from pre-em to early post-em of weeds to moist soil.  Apply in late summer/early autumn.  Max dose of 1000g ai/ha every 3rd year in same field.	Apply to cold, moist soils (not saturated).  Avoid use if drains are flowing or likely to flow in the near future.	Apply when weeds are actively growing.  Avoid use if drains are flowing or likely to flow in the near future.	Apply when a full crop canopy is present and no more than 50% bare ground.  Straight mecoprop cannot be applied to cereals between 1 October and 1 March.

Extracted from H2OK? Water Protection Advice for farmers and advisers – 2009/10 available from the Voluntary Initiative website

### Key points

(For herbicides in Table 9)

- Establish grass buffer strips of at least 6m wide beside watercourses, or use a 5m no-spray zone.
- Do not spray when heavy rain or snow is forecast within 48 hours of application; or when soil is very wet or drains are running or are likely to run.
- Only spray in suitable settled weather, preferably when soil is moist.
- Do not spray when soil is dry and cracked.
- Do not apply the above herbicides if the fields have been mole drained or sub-soiled below plough depth/layer.
- Minimise dose rate if possible.
- Take care when filling or emptying the sprayer.
- Wash sprayer in the field and park under cover.
- Pressure, or triple wash and drain pesticide containers before storing them under cover to await disposal by a waste disposal contractor.



For detailed guidance on protecting water quality and responsible pesticide use

[www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk](http://www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk)



# Effective herbicide application

## – correct water volume and droplet size improve efficacy

### Herbicide performance

Application technique can significantly affect herbicide performance, particularly for small weeds early in the season. Consideration should be given to:

- timing of the application
- high levels of deposit of active substance
- the right droplet size
- controlling spray drift.

Optimum timing is important. Where weather conditions limit available spray days, high work rates are necessary but must be balanced against the risk of spray drift.

### Spray deposits

Small weeds are particularly challenging targets, especially grass weeds because of their vertical structure.

The highest deposits on target weeds result from reducing both application volume and droplet size. Using lower volumes (around 100-150l/ha) is generally more effective than volumes of 200l/ha and higher.

Some horizontal movement of droplets is necessary to ensure adequate deposition on small grass weeds. Angling nozzles is one way to create horizontal velocities which increases active ingredient deposition on small vertical targets.

### Droplet size

For many herbicides, finer quality sprays are more reliable than coarser sprays. Often air-induction nozzles giving the smallest droplet sizes perform as well as medium-fine conventional sprays (Figure 3).

### Controlling drift

Fine sprays are likely to lead to the highest drift. Applications where little crop canopy exists to absorb spray will also increase risk of drift. The lower the boom, the less the drift. Maintaining the correct boom height throughout the spray operation is essential. Wind speed has an important, but smaller, effect on drift.

**Figure 3: Matching nozzles to weed challenge**

Nozzle style	Air induction		Conventional		
	Small droplet	Large droplet	Fine	Medium	Coarse
<b>Spray droplet size</b>					
<b>Pre-and early post-emergence</b>	▲	▲ *		▲	▲
<b>Grass weeds - 3 leaves or fewer</b>			▲▲	▲ *	
<b>Grass weeds - more than 3 leaves</b>	▲ *		▲	▲▲	
<b>Broad-leaved weeds - up to 2cm across</b>			▲▲	▲▲ *	
<b>Broad leaved weeds - 2-5cm across</b>	▲ *		▲	▲▲	
<b>Broad leaved weeds - more than 5cm</b>	▲▲ *			▲▲	
<b>Non-selective (eg glyphosate)</b>	▲▲	▲ *		▲▲	▲

▲ =Acceptable

▲▲ =Preferred

\* = Best for drift control

See HGCA's Nozzle selection chart for more information.

### Weed size

Large, rather than small, weeds are more suitable for treatment with air induction nozzles, particularly those giving the smallest droplet sizes, which can still significantly reduce drift compared with conventional nozzles.

### Formulation

Water-soluble liquid formulations with a high level of surfactants – such as glyphosate – may also increase spray drift so additional precautions for controlling drift may be necessary.

### Increasing work rate

Reducing water volume from 200 to 100l/ha, achieved by changing nozzle size, gives an estimated 40% increase in work rate for a 24m boom on a 3000 litre self-propelled sprayer. Increases in work rate can also be achieved by increasing forward speed and boom width. However, faster forward speeds and wider booms may require increased boom height. This increases the risk of drift as does spraying reduced volumes through smaller-sized conventional nozzles.

It is essential to comply with product labels and the Code of Practice for using plant protection products.

# Minimise resistance risks

– maintain product effectiveness with an integrated approach

## Optimising weed control strategies for herbicide resistance management

Many of the most active herbicides (eg ALS and ACCase inhibitors) pose a very high resistance risk because they are affected by target site resistance and, in most cases, enhanced metabolism resistance too. It is essential to utilise strategies to limit resistance to these herbicides, especially now that fewer, lower risk herbicides are available. Herbicide resistance is an irreversible process – it does not disappear or decline if herbicides cease to be used. This means more use of non-chemical methods to reduce dependence on herbicides, maximising the benefit from pre-emergence herbicides and ensuring effective use and timing of remaining post-emergence products (Table 10).

## Non-chemical control methods to reduce reliance on herbicides

See page 6–9 for more details.

Non-chemical methods cannot replace herbicides on most farms, but reduced reliance on herbicides will be necessary both from a practical (increasing resistance, lack of new herbicides) and political (complying with new EU legislation) aspect.

## Pre-emergence herbicides

- Reduce the overall weed population and the need for higher risk post-emergence products.
- Flufenacet, pendimethalin, prosulfocarb and triallate are all affected by enhanced metabolism resistance, but generally only to a limited extent.
- Products or programmes based on combinations of these active ingredients usually give useful levels of control. Resistance to these herbicides does not appear to build up rapidly.
- Valuable in any integrated resistance management strategy, especially for grass weeds.

**Table 10: Herbicide resistance risk factors**

Agronomic factor	Lowest risk	Highest risk
Cropping system	Good rotation of spring and autumn crops	Continuous winter cereals
Cultivation system	Annual ploughing	Continuous non-ploughing
Control method	Cultural only	Herbicides only
Herbicide use throughout the rotation	Different modes of action	Single mode of action
Weed infestation level	Low	High
Resistance incidence	None in vicinity	Identified locally in similar cropping systems

## Post-emergence herbicides

Place less reliance on high resistance risk post-emergence herbicides.

- The ACCase ('fops', 'dims', 'dens') and ALS inhibitors (eg sulfonylureas) are prone to resistance, and their regular use is associated with a high risk of herbicide resistance, and consequently poor weed control.
- To avoid, or delay, resistance development, do not rely on either class as the main weed control in successive crops.
- Use these herbicides, in mixture and/or sequence with lower risk modes of action, to help reduce weed populations. However, this will not prevent further selection for resistance.
- Remember, there are restrictions on the sequential use of both ACCase and ALS inhibitors – introduced to reduce herbicide resistance risk.
- Using mixtures and sequences is a sensible approach, but it is best considered as a strategy to delay, rather than prevent, resistance.
- Where possible, use lower resistance risk post-emergence herbicides in the rotation, eg propyzamide and carbetamide, in oilseed rape.

## Remember

- Check carefully any restrictions on mixing or sequencing herbicides.
- Avoid treating in waterlogged or frosty conditions or if crop is suffering nutrient stress.
- Most residual herbicides work poorly in soils of high organic matter content (over 5%).
- Residual herbicides require moisture and an even seedbed for good control.
- Heavy rain after application can move herbicides down the soil profile away from the weed germination zone.
- In no-till established crops where crop seed is not covered with soil, wait until the crop has established before applying herbicides.



The Weed Resistance Action Group (WRAG) website contains many useful documents and references. This includes the WRAG guidelines and an up-to-date list of herbicide modes of action.

Search online for "Weed Resistance Action Group".

# Managing herbicide resistance

## – good practice is vital to preserve product effectiveness

'Herbicide resistance is the inherited ability of a weed to survive a rate of herbicide that would normally kill it.'

### Resistance mechanisms

Herbicide resistance, first identified in black-grass in 1982, also affects wild-oat, Italian rye-grass and, more recently, common chickweed, common poppy and scentless mayweed.

Herbicide resistance occurs through selection of plants that survive herbicide treatment. With repeated selection, resistant plants multiply until they dominate the population. Three main types of resistance are present in UK grass-weed populations (Table 11). In broad-leaved weeds, only ALS target site resistance has been confirmed.

These WRAG guidelines bring together the latest research and field experience to help UK farmers and advisors:

- prevent resistant weed populations developing
- manage existing resistant populations
- prevent the spread of herbicide resistant weeds.

**Table 11: Resistance mechanisms**

<b>Enhanced metabolism resistance (EMR)</b>	<b>ACCase target site resistance (ACCase TSR)</b>	<b>ALS target site resistance (ALS TSR)</b>
Results in herbicide detoxification and is the commonest resistance mechanism in grass weeds in the UK. It affects most herbicides to varying degrees, but only in severe cases results in complete loss of control. Tends to increase slowly.	Blocks the site of action specific to 'fop' (eg Topik, Falcon), 'dim' (eg Laser) and 'den' (eg Axial) herbicides in grass weeds. It only affects these groups of herbicides, but can result in very poor control. Can increase rapidly.	Blocks the site of action of sulfonylurea (eg Atlantis) and related herbicides (eg Broadway Star, Attribut) in grass and broad-leaved weeds. It only affects this group of herbicides but can result in poor control. Currently less common than ACCase TSR, but is increasing.

*NB All three resistance types can occur independently, in different plants within a single field, or even within the same plant.*

### Key factors for more sustainable resistance management

Recent research has highlighted the key factors that can contribute to better integrated weed management strategies.

- **Increase use of non-chemical control methods to reduce reliance on herbicides.** Non-chemical methods cannot replace herbicides on most farms, but reduced reliance on herbicides will be necessary.
- **Make greater use of pre-emergence herbicides.** These reduce the overall weed population and the need for higher risk post-emergence products. Resistance to the pre-emergence herbicides used for grass-weed control tends to be only partial and builds up relatively slowly, so they appear to be a lower resistance risk than most post-emergence options.

– **Place less reliance on high resistance risk post-emergence herbicides.** The regular use of ACCase ('fops', 'dims', 'dens') and ALS inhibiting herbicides (eg sulfonylureas) is associated with a high risk of herbicide resistance. Do not rely on either class as the main means of grass-weed control in successive crops. Where possible, use lower resistance risk post-emergence herbicides in the rotation, eg propyzamide and carbetamide, in oilseed rape and beans.

– **Use mixtures and sequences to reduce the threat.** Using higher resistance risk herbicides in mixture or sequence with lower risk modes of action, will help reduce weed populations. However, this will not prevent further selection for resistance. Remember, there are restrictions on the sequential use of both ACCase and ALS inhibiting herbicides – introduced to reduce risk of herbicide resistance.

- **Monitor herbicide performance in individual fields.** Resistance can vary considerably between and, to a lesser extent, within different fields. Management strategies need to take account of this inter-field variation. Close monitoring of variations in herbicide performance, both within and between fields, can act as an early warning of potentially greater problems ahead.
- **Carry out regular testing for resistance.** While the factors responsible for the evolution of herbicide resistance are well established, predicting the risk at an individual field scale is imprecise. Consequently, actual testing of seeds or plants from fields provides a more robust indicator of the degree of herbicide resistance. This needs to be done regularly, at least once every 2-3 years, if changes in resistance are to be detected reliably.

# Monitor herbicide resistance

## – regular testing and assessment are essential to maintain control

### Detecting herbicide resistance

Early detection is very important. Symptoms of herbicide resistance are:

- A gradual decline in control over several years.
- Healthy plants beside dead plants of the same species.
- Poor weed control leading to discrete weed patches.
- Poor control of one susceptible species when other susceptible species are well controlled.

### Testing for herbicide resistance

Have a test carried out on seed or plant samples if you suspect resistance could be developing. Good sampling methodology is important if results are to be credible (Table 12). Seed samples are best collected in mid-July.

- Preferably collect samples while control levels are still good overall. Do not wait until herbicides fail totally, as by then resistance management options will be much more limited.

**Table 12: Sample areas for resistance**

Unit of assessment	Consistency	Implication for sampling
Patches	Good	One sample is likely to be representative of that patch.
Within fields	Good/variable	Collect seed from a number of patches across the field.
Between fields	Variable	Consider carefully how to approach sampling and be prepared to take samples from several fields on each farm.
Farms	Variable	Do not rely on the results at one farm to predict those of another.

Discuss sample collection and testing options with your adviser or crop protection supplier.

### Monitor the success of resistance management strategies

- Keep accurate field records of cropping, cultivation and herbicide use, and control achieved.
- Monitor herbicide performance critically within individual fields to detect any progressive loss in herbicide efficacy which can act as an early warning of potentially greater problems ahead.
- Test specific fields regularly every three years – either those with a known degree of resistance or where there is a high risk of resistance developing.

### Herbicide resistance

The threat of herbicide resistance continues to increase due to:

- increasing use of higher resistance risk herbicides (ACCase and ALS inhibitors, eg Atlantis)
- loss of lower resistance risk herbicides (eg trifluralin and isoproturon)
- lack of herbicides with new modes of action
- trend towards more non-inversion tillage which favours grass weeds
- dominance of autumn-sown cereals and oilseed rape in arable rotations.

### Rapid and effective tests of herbicide resistance are available



**Sensitive**



**Resistant**

# Herbicide resistance in individual weeds

<p><b>Black-grass</b> (<i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i>) the major resistance problem in England</p> <p>Resistance first found 1982</p> <p>Cases confirmed over 2,500</p> <p>Number of counties 31</p> 	<p><b>Resistance status:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced metabolism – very widespread</li> <li>Target site resistance to 'fops', 'dims' and 'dens' – widespread</li> <li>Target site resistance to ALS inhibitors – increasing</li> </ul>
	<p><b>It is now accepted that some degree of resistance occurs in virtually all fields in England sprayed regularly with herbicides to control black-grass.</b></p>
	<p><b>Findings from recent research studies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resistance to mesosulfuron + iodosulfuron, introduced into the UK in 2003 as 'Atlantis', has been confirmed on over 400 farms in 26 counties. ALS target site resistance was confirmed in many resistant populations, although enhanced metabolism also poses a big threat.</li> <li>Use of high resistance risk ALS and ACCCase inhibiting herbicides in mixtures and sequences with lower risk modes of action increases the overall level of weed control, but does not prevent resistance increasing.</li> <li>Resistance can reduce the efficacy of all currently available pre-emergence herbicides, but usually only to a limited degree. Flufenacet appears the least affected herbicide. Resistance also appears to increase more slowly compared with the post-emergence ACCCase and ALS inhibiting herbicides.</li> <li>Non-chemical control methods can give useful, if modest, levels of control of black-grass. Greater use of non-chemical control methods will reduce the dependency on herbicides, and so reduce the risk of resistance.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Resistance status:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced metabolism – common</li> <li>Target site resistance to 'fops', 'dims' and 'dens' – occurs, but less commonly than in black-grass</li> <li>Target site resistance to ALS inhibitors – confirmed in 2012</li> </ul>
<p><b>Italian rye-grass</b> (<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>) an increasing threat throughout the UK</p> <p>Resistance first found 1990</p> <p>Cases confirmed over 450</p> <p>Number of counties 33</p> 	<p><b>Resistance is widespread, but is currently less problematic than with black-grass. Resistance poses an increasing threat due to over-reliance on high resistance risk herbicides (ACCase and ALS inhibitors).</b></p> <p><b>Findings from recent research studies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resistance to diclo-p-methyl and tralkoxydim (eg Grasp) was found on 70% of farms in a survey of fields in England. Resistance to cycloxydim (eg Laser) and pinoxaden (eg Axial) was found less commonly (&lt;20% farms).</li> <li>Resistance was mainly due to enhanced metabolism, although ACCCase target site resistance was also detected. Resistance to ALS inhibiting herbicides is likely to increase.</li> <li>Rye-grass produces more seeds per plant than black-grass, and is at least as competitive, so high levels of control are needed</li> <li>Most plant emergence (94%) occurs in the autumn, from October to December. Autumn emerging plants produce about 23 times as much seed as spring emerging ones.</li> <li>Weed control should be focused on autumn rather than spring treatments.</li> </ul>

## Common wild-oat and winter wild-oat

(*Avena fatua* and *Avena sterilis* ssp. *ludoviciana*) a limited, but widespread problem

Resistance first found 1993

Cases confirmed over 250

Number of counties 28



## Broad-leaved weeds – chickweed, common poppy and scentless mayweed

*Stellaria media*, *Papaver rhoeas* and *Tripleurospermum inodorum*



**Resistance status:** Enhanced metabolism confirmed

Target site resistance tends to be specific to the 'fop' herbicides

Target site resistance to ALS inhibitors – not yet confirmed in the UK

**Currently, resistance tends to be more localised than with black-grass and rye-grass. Resistance continues to pose a threat due to over-reliance on high resistance risk herbicides (ACCase and ALS inhibitors).**

### Findings from recent research studies

- Herbicide-resistant wild-oat appear to be a relatively limited problem in the UK and have not increased as predicted. This is surprising, as resistant wild-oats are an increasing problem in some other countries (eg Canada, Iran) where there is high dependence on ACCase and ALS inhibiting herbicides.
- Wild-oats are self pollinated and so resistance cannot be

spread by pollen. This may be why resistant wild-oats tend to occur in discrete patches. Preventing resistant patches spreading should be a top priority.

- In contrast to black-grass and rye-grass, ACCase target site resistance tends to be more specific to 'fops', with 'dims' and 'dens' often remaining effective.

**Resistance status:** Enhanced metabolism – not found in broad-leaved weeds in the UK

Target site resistance to ALS inhibitors – confirmed in all three species

*NB: ACCase resistance is irrelevant as these herbicides are not active on broad-leaved weeds*

	<b>Chickweed</b>	<b>Poppy</b>	<b>Mayweed</b>
Resistance first found	2000	2001	2002
Cases confirmed	over 40	over 25	5
Number of counties	13	9	3
Comment	Mainly a problem in Scotland and N. Ireland	Limited problem, but increasing	Limited problem

**Although resistance has only been detected in these three species in the UK, worldwide experience shows that resistance could evolve in many other broad-leaved weeds too, so vigilance is required.**

### Findings from recent research studies

- Resistance is mainly confined to ALS inhibiting herbicides (eg sulfonylureas such as metsulfuron-methyl) in all three species, with alternative modes of action giving complete control.
- Alternative herbicides which give good control of ALS resistant populations include fluroxypyr (eg Starane 2) on chickweed, pendimethalin (eg Stomp Aqua) on poppy and ioxynil+ bromoxynil (eg Oxytril CM) on mayweed.
- Resistance to mecoprop in chickweed has been confirmed in the past but the extent of the problem is uncertain.

# Weed management in practice 1

Chris Bailey

Knapwell  
Cambridgeshire



**"A cover crop before spring beans prevents N loss and gives a wide window for black-grass control"**

180 ha  
Hanslope clay

#### Problem weeds:

Highly resistant black-grass.  
Patches of wild-oat.

Typical range of broad-leaved  
weeds including crane's-bill.

#### Rotation:

1. Winter wheat
2. Winter oilseed rape
3. Winter wheat
4. Spring beans

Sometimes includes a 2<sup>nd</sup> wheat.

#### Cultivation and timing

Crop	Soil movement	Cultivation timing	Drilling
Winter wheat after spring beans	Disc and tine	Soon after harvest	End September
Winter oilseed rape	None	–	Seed broadcast into wheat before harvest
Winter wheat after OSR	Disc or tine	Soon after harvest	End September
Spring beans	Disc	October	March

#### Current practice

##### No-till establishment of oilseed rape

Keeps weeds rooting at soil surface for a very high level of control from propyzamide.

##### Spray out black-grass patches

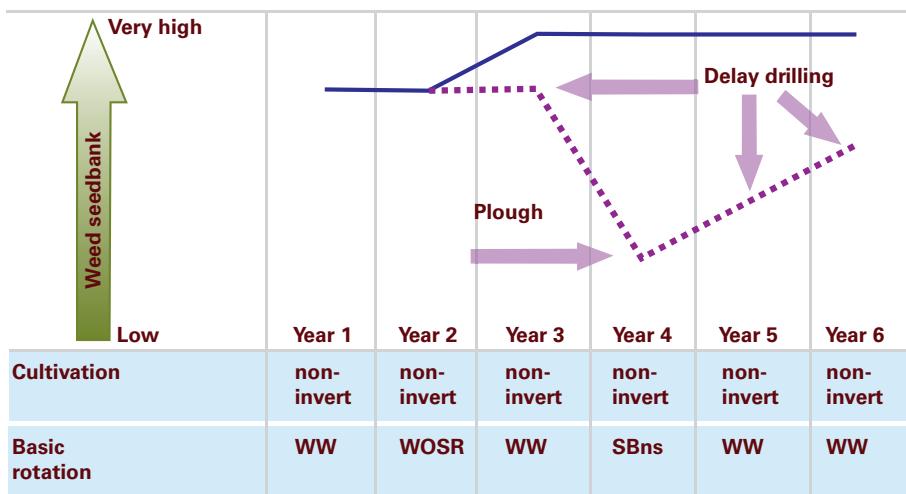
Where black-grass populations are high and autumn herbicides have had little effect, spraying out black-grass with a non-selective herbicide minimises seed return.

#### Suggested improvements

##### Delay winter wheat drilling

Chris mainly sows early and uses non-inversion techniques in his rotation. At present, black-grass control is adequate but the weed seedbank is building gradually. To reduce this, late sowing in the 1<sup>st</sup> wheat after oilseed rape allows for increased use of a non-selective herbicide, while ploughing before spring beans reduces the weed seedbank further.

Later sowings can maintain this lower seedbank.



WW = winter wheat    WOSR = winter oilseed rape    SBns = spring beans

— Current practice    - - - Suggested improvements

# Weed management in practice 2

Andrew Cragg

Romney Marsh  
Kent



**“Spring cropping is not attractive in the short-term but offers many long-term benefits”**

560 ha  
silty clay loam

## Problem weeds:

Black-grass (ALS resistance confirmed).  
Crane's-bill and cleavers increased in recent years.  
Sow-thistle and charlock in oilseed rape.  
Hedge mustard in peas.

## Rotation:

1. Winter wheat
2. Winter wheat
3. Winter oilseed rape
4. Winter wheat
5. Winter wheat
6. Vining peas

## Cultivation and timing

Crop	Soil movement	Cultivation timing	Drilling
1 <sup>st</sup> winter wheat	Disc	At drilling	Late September
2 <sup>nd</sup> winter wheat	Mainly disc or some plough	Soon after harvest	October
OSR	Loosening and power harrow	As early as possible	Early August
Vining peas	Plough and press	Early autumn	April-May

## Current practice

### Inclusion of a spring crop

Ploughing and a wide window for weed control with non-selective herbicides give high levels of black-grass control and a herbicide-free spring crop.

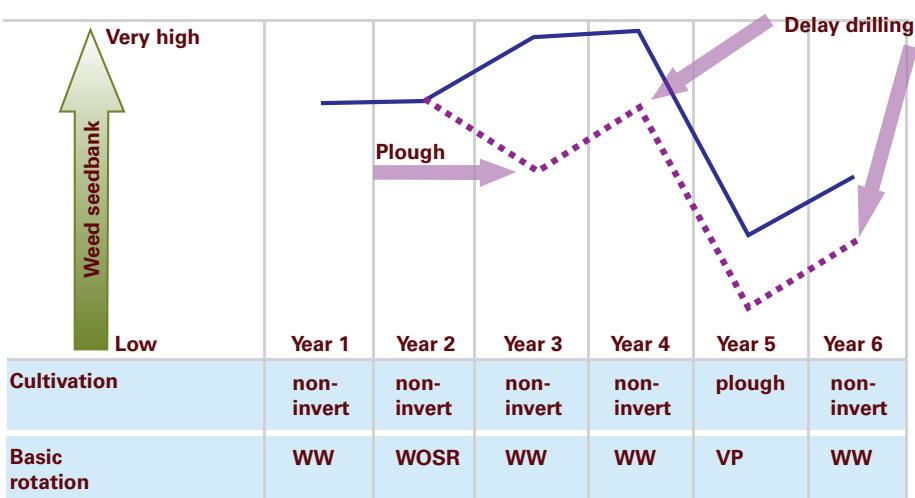
### Controlled traffic system

Improved soil structure and oilseed rape establishment.

## Suggested improvements

### Ploughing and later drilling to reduce the black-grass seedbank

Ploughing down black-grass before spring peas results in fewer seeds in the germination layer. Ploughing before wheat in year 3 would lead to an initial decrease in black-grass. (Delaying sowing from October until early November would increase the effect much more). Ploughing in year 3 also reduces the volunteer OSR seedbank. A pea crop and October sowing of the final wheat crop maintains the lower black-grass seed bank.



# Weed management in practice 3

**Richard Davey**

**Chalgrove  
Oxon**



**“Rather than having a poorly established break crop it’s better to have no crop at all”**

**1,150 ha**

**Light sandy loam to heavy clay**

#### **Problem weeds:**

High levels of highly resistant black-grass.

#### **Rotation:**

1. Winter wheat
2. Break
3. Winter wheat
4. Break

Soil type and topography dictate break crops which include winter beans, winter and spring oilseed rape.

#### **Cultivation and timing**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Soil movement</b>	<b>Cultivation timing</b>	<b>Drilling</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> winter wheat	Disc and tines	Soon after harvest	End September
Winter beans	Disc and tines	Soon after harvest	End October
Winter oilseed rape	Disc and tines	Soon after harvest	3rd week August

#### **Current practice**

##### **Prompt herbicide application**

Residuals applied within 24 hours of drilling.

##### **Stale seedbed**

Shallow cultivation after harvest encourages black-grass to chit. If moisture is adequate, then deeper cultivations used for a better chit.

##### **Delayed wheat drilling**

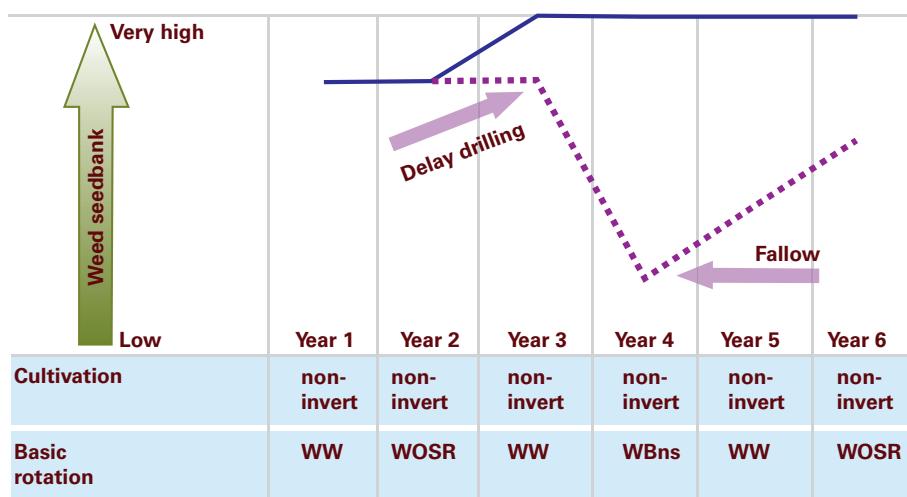
Delaying drilling until early October enables weed control via stale seedbed.

#### **Suggested improvements**

##### **Use fallows to reduce soil seedbank**

Richard does not want to plough and is not keen on spring cropping due to establishment problems. While controlling weed numbers in his crop, his current practice has not reduced the black-grass seedbank.

A possible change may be the use of later sowing and fallows. A November sowing in year 3 begins to reduce the seedbank. A fallow in year 4 causes a further large reduction.



WW = winter wheat    WOSR = winter oilseed rape    WBns = winter beans

— Current practice    ····· Suggested improvements

# Weed management in practice 4

**Philip Mortimer**  
Maidenhead  
Berkshire



**"Changing from winter to spring oats has helped to achieve better black-grass control"**

**397 ha**  
Heavy clay and silty clay loam

**Problem weeds:**  
Suspected resistant black-grass, annually rogued wild-oat, crane's-bill.

**Rotation:**

1. Winter wheat
2. Winter oilseed rape

Spring beans or spring oats grown to break up the rotation.

## Cultivation and timing

Crop	Soil movement	Cultivation timing	Drilling
Winter wheat	Disc and flat lift	Soon after harvest	October
Winter oilseed rape	None	–	Broadcast behind combine header
Spring beans/ oats	Plough	Early autumn	March

## Current practice

### Broadcasting rape behind combine header

Keeps weed seeds on soil surface to maximise control from propyzamide.

### Spring cropping

Maximises periods for non-selective herbicides to control germinating black-grass.

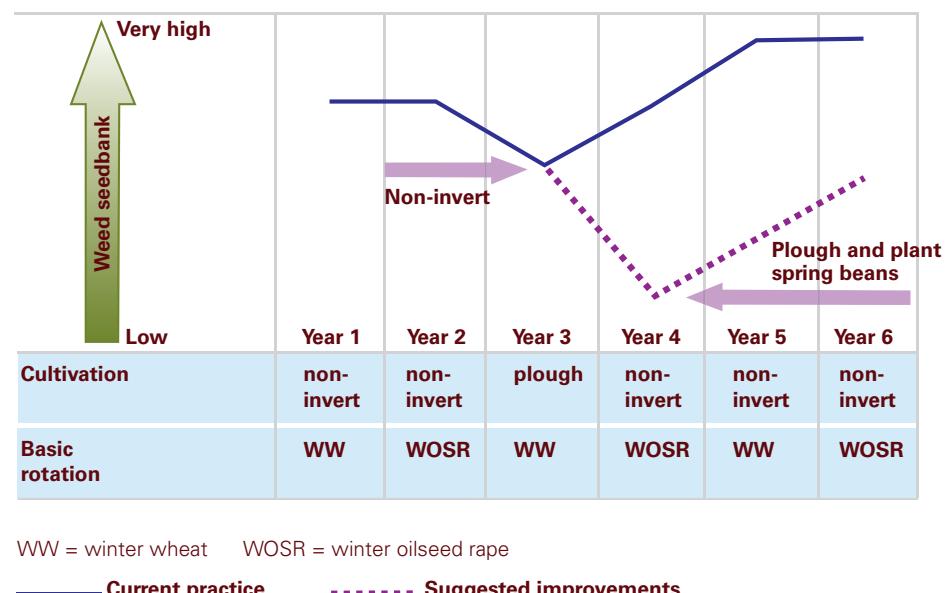
### Ploughing

Buries short-lived seeds to decrease seedbank levels.

## Suggested improvements

### Reduce resistant black-grass seed numbers in the upper soil layer

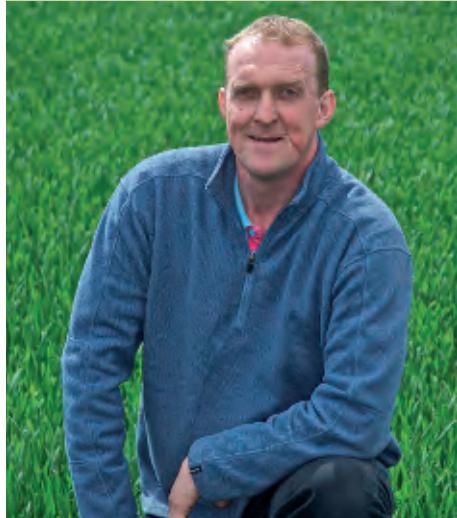
Philip's target rotation is to alternate winter wheat and rape. He usually uses minimum tillage, but will plough if black-grass levels seem to be getting too high. An alternative is spring cropping after ploughing which provides a longer period for winter weed control. This reduces seed in the germination layer for future years.



# Weed management in practice 5

Graeme Neill

Nr Arbroath, Angus



**“Resistant chickweed is controlled before drilling and by using mixtures of herbicides”**

262 ha  
Sandy loam

#### Problem weeds:

ALS-resistant chickweed, common field-speedwell, annual meadow-grass, cleavers.

#### Rotation:

1. Potatoes
2. Winter wheat/spring barley
3. Winter wheat
4. Spring barley
5. Winter oilseed rape
6. Winter wheat

#### Cultivation and timing

Crop	Soil movement	Cultivation timing	Drilling
Potatoes	Plough and stone separator	November/December	April
Winter wheat	Deep till	Late September/October	End September or later
Winter barley	Plough	Early September	Early September
Spring barley	Plough	December	March
Winter oilseed rape	Plough	August	August/September

#### Current practice

##### Using non-inversion tillage in first wheats after potatoes

Volunteer potatoes are becoming less of a problem in the rotation due to increased predation.

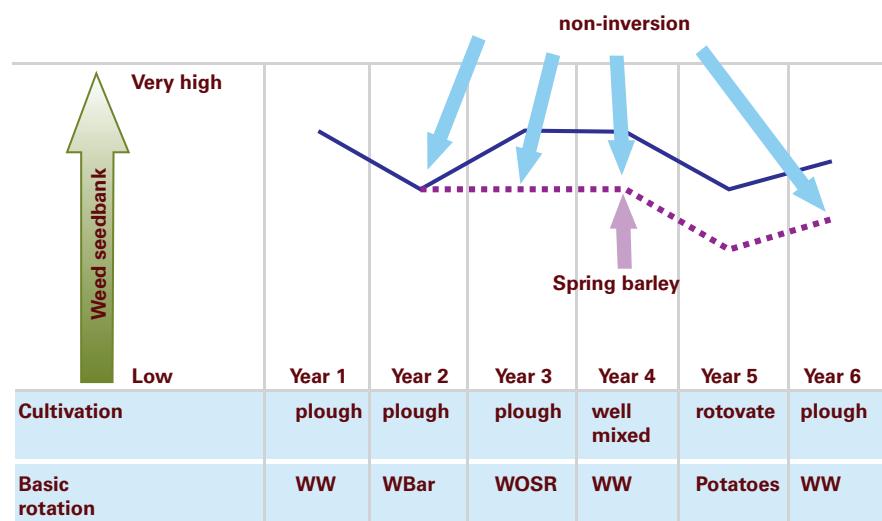
##### Using a range of active ingredients to control chickweed

ALS-resistant chickweed is not widespread on the farm. Chickweed seed is persistent in the seedbank and multiplication rates are high.

#### Suggested improvement

##### Controlling chickweed seedbanks in the upper layer of soil

Chickweed seeds survive for over five years, so it is important after ploughing to leave the old seeds at depth and not disturb them. Seed return is managed by stale seedbeds before drilling, and all subsequent seeds are left on the surface. Spring barley crop allows a long period to control emerging chickweed as they emerge over winter.



WW = winter wheat    WBar = winter barley    WOSR = winter oilseed rape

— Current practice

····· Suggested improvement

# Further information

HGCA publications and details of HGCA-funded projects are all available on the HGCA website – [www.hgca.com](http://www.hgca.com)

## HGCA Guides

- G55** HGCA Oilseed rape guide (2012)
- G51** Enhancing arable biodiversity through the management of uncropped land – an HGCA guide
- G47** The encyclopaedia of arable weeds (2009)

## HGCA Information Sheets

- IS31** Identification and control of brome grasses (2014)
- IS30** Black-grass: solutions to the problem (2014)
- IS17** Weed control in conventional and organic oats (2012)
- TS116** Autumn grass weed control in cereals and oilseed rape (2012)
- IS09** Oilseed rape herbicides and water protection (2009)
- IS06** Control of ALS-resistant chickweed and poppy in cereals (2009)
- IS02** Pre-harvest glyphosate application to wheat and barley (2008)
- TS100** Effective, sustainable Italian rye-grass control in winter cereals (2007)

## HGCA Project Reports

- PR530** New approaches to weed control in oilseed rape (2014)
- PR509** New strategies to maintain autumn grass-weed control in cereals and oilseed rape (2013)
- PR501** Maximising the control achieved by soil-applied herbicides (2012)
- PR498** Dormancy in grass weeds (2012)

- PR471** Proof of concept of automated mapping of weeds in arable fields (2010)
- SR18** Understanding and combating the threat posed by rye-grass (*Lolium multiflorum*) as a weed of arable crops (2010)
- PR466** Integrated management of herbicide resistance (2010)
- PR421** Developing an effective strategy for the sustainable control of Italian rye-grass (*Lolium multiflorum*) (2007)
- PR404** Collection and dormancy testing of black-grass seed (2006)
- 3788** Preventing a widespread increase in ALS-resistant broad-leaved weeds through effective management in a cereal/oilseed rape rotation, using common poppy as an indicator species
- 3757** Competitive crop cultivars: optimising yield and sustainable weed suppression
- 3647** Sustaining winter cropping rotations under threat from herbicide-resistant black-grass

## Other information

- Black-grass (*Alopecurus myosuroides*) (Rothamsted Research, 2013).
- Black-grass: the potential of non-chemical control (Rothamsted Research, 2013).
- Black-grass: the benefits of herbicide resistance testing (Weed Resistance Action Group, 2012).
- Lutman P, Moss S, Cook S and Welham S (2013). A review of the effects of crop agronomy on the management of *Alopecurus myosuroides*. *Weed Research* 53: 299–313.
- Marshall EJP, Brown VK, Boatman ND *et al.* (2003). The role of weeds in supporting biological diversity within crop fields. *Weed Research* 43: 77–89.
- Blair A, Cussans J and Lutman P (1999). Biological framework for developing a weed management support system for weed control in winter wheat: weed competition and time of weed control. Brighton Conference Weeds, BCPC, 753–760.

## Current HGCA-funded projects

- 3807** Multiple herbicide resistance in grass weeds: from genes to agroecosystems
- 3789** Added value fallows: the use of customised cover cropping approaches within integrated grass weed management

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