

Three reasons why Overwatch® should be your preferred pre-emergent herbicide

- 1. High level of pre-emergent control of annual ryegrass and other regional important weeds
- 2. Very strong yield results compared to other pre-emergent (IBS) herbicides used in wheat
- 3. Excellent return on investment



In 2024 the FMC Technical Services team implemented an Isoflex® herbicide system trial program in wheat to assess the pre-emergent performance of Overwatch® Herbicide against various pre-emergent (IBS) standards as well as in a herbicide system where it was incorporated by sowing (IBS) followed by early post emergent (EPE) herbicide application. The results captured go beyond weed control to highlight both yield and return on investment after both herbicide and application costs are considered.

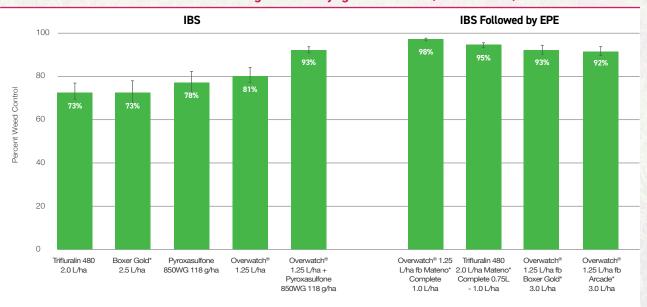
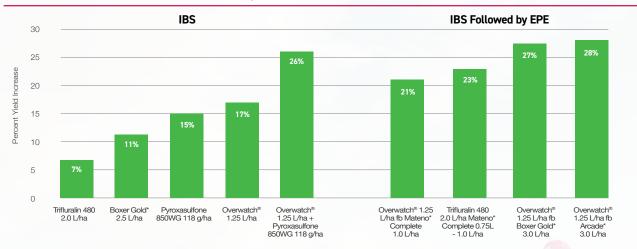


Chart 1: Percentage annual ryegrass control (9-12 Weeks)

With the standalone IBS applied pre-emergent herbicides, while not statistically different, Overwatch® Herbicide delivered the highest-level of annual ryegrass control. The addition of pyroxasulfone 850 WG to Overwatch® Herbicide resulted in a significant improvement in control, equal to many IBS followed by an EPE herbicide application as seen in the above chart. With the herbicide system treatments where an IBS herbicide application is followed by an EPE herbicide application, Overwatch® followed by Mateno* Complete delivered the best result, statistically better than any other herbicide treatment assessed in the 2024 Isoflex® herbicide system trial program.



Chart 2: Percent yield increase over untreated control (UTC)



Of the four standalone pre-emergent herbicides applied IBS, Overwatch® delivered the highest yield result, 117% of the untreated control equal to an additional 500 kg/ha. The addition of pyroxasulfone 850 WG to Overwatch® Herbicide at the IBS timing delivered the overall highest yield gain, an additional 750 kg/ha or 126% of the untreated control.

With the IBS followed by EPE herbicide treatments, the best yield gain of 128% (820 kg/ha) came from Overwatch® Herbicide fb Arcade*, which goes to show that excellent weed control does not guarantee optimal yields. Crop selectivity also makes a significant contribution to yield, and these trials help to show that some IBS applied herbicides can have an impact on crop vigour and growth that is not always visible.

IBS Followed by EPE 180 160 \$167 \$164 \$155 140 compared to UTC 120 \$112 100 \$101 80 60 \$66 \$64 ROI(\$/ha) 40 \$32 20 0 Trifluralin 480 Overwatch® 1.25 L/ha fb Boxer Gold* Pyroxasulfone Overwatch® Overwatch® 1.25 Trifluralin 480 L/ha fb Mateno* 2.0 L/ha Mateno 1.25 L/ha fb 850WG 118 g/ha 2.0 L/ha 2.5 L/ha 1.25 L/ha 1.25 L/ha + Complete 0.75L Pyroxasulfone Complete Boxer Gold 850WG 118 g/ha 1.0 L/ha - 1.0 L/ha 3.0 L/ha 3.0 L/ha

Chart 3: Herbicide return on investment - ROI (\$ /ha)

Chart 3 reveals the commercial outcome of all treatments after factoring in the cost of each herbicide and their application (assumed at \$15 /ha). In this exercise the wheat price was assumed to be \$320 /tonne.

With the standalone pre-emergent herbicide (IBS) applications, the return on investment between Overwatch® Herbicide and pyroxasulfone 850 WG was similar, with Overwatch marginally ahead despite in 2024 Overwatch® costing \$18 /ha more than pyroxasulfone 850 WG, and both herbicides delivered > \$30 /ha than Boxer Gold* and > \$60 /ha than trifluralin 480. Again, the standout IBS treatment was Overwatch® plus pyroxasulfone 850 WG, which also delivered a far better ROI than any Mateno* Complete treatment!

With the EPE treatments, Overwatch® followed by (fb) either Arcade* or Boxer Gold* produced equally the best outcome with a return of \$167 /ha and \$164 /ha respectively, \$50 /ha and \$100 /ha more than either Mateno* Complete treatment assessed in this trial program.

This series of trials show that there is far more to consider than just a high level of weed control when selecting a preemergent and/or EPE herbicide, and while managing input costs will always be a key consideration, yield is still king.

Trial ID: AUY-24-551SF; AUY-24-554; AUY-24-556; AUY-24-558; AUY-24-559; AUY-24-560. 2024 Herbicide costs: Arcade* = \$29 /ha; Boxer Gold* = \$25 /ha; Mateno* Complete = \$54 /ha; pyroxasulfone 850 WG = \$25 /ha; Overwatch® = \$44 /ha; Trifluralin 480 = \$16 /ha.

For further details, visit ag.fmc.com/au

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