

# FMC'S COMMERCIAL TECHNICAL TEAM REGIONAL UPDATE

What's Happening In Your Region?

## Fundatis® Herbicide, powered by Isoflex® active field performance

These pictures below were taken on farm near Shrewsbury a few weeks ago in winter wheat. The fields received an application of Fundatis® at 1.0L/ha + Flufenacet and DFF at 0.6L/ha, at the pre-emergence timing.

You can really see the striking pink colour which can sometimes be seen on susceptible grassweeds and in this case, ryegrass.



## MAT HUTCHINGS

Senior Commercial Technical Manager for the East Midlands and Ireland.

### Cereals

The vast majority of cereals are drilled, with wheat, after the remaining sugar beet, to be lifted, making up the majority of what is left.

Pre-emergence herbicides have largely been effective due to good levels of moisture. The open autumn and crops going in earlier than the previous two autumns have meant that the opportunities for follow-up treatments have allowed robust programmes to be used where appropriate. The early drilling, however, has led to high grassweed pressures in some situations, with a few crops having to be destroyed. Mildew and aphids are easy to find in many cereals, which has led to a requirement for BYDV treatments.

Oilseed rape (OSR) is in a good position; incidences of cabbage stem flea beetle are generally low, and crops are at a good size going into the winter, which should reduce the severity of pigeon damage. Disease can be found in OSR crops, with both Phoma and Light leaf spot present. Levels of infection vary.

## KIRSTY MCKENZIE

Commercial Technical Manager for the North and South West.



### Autumn has been significantly kinder

The weather this autumn has been significantly kinder in the West than in previous years. However, due to high levels of rainfall experienced in previous seasons, growers have drilled and established crops a lot earlier. This could potentially run the risk of earlier disease pressure due to the warmer, wetter conditions we have experienced at the start of the autumn. In the North West, wheat areas have seen a positive increase compared to last year, and travelling conditions have improved. Winter oilseed rape crops are looking well established; however, growers should be mindful of crops romping on.

### Grassweed Pressures

Farms with high grassweed pressures took a risk drilling early, and crops have established well.

Pre and post-emergence applications were applied in good time before the wetter weather arrived; however, in fields with significant pressures, pre and post-emergence chemistry could possibly run out of steam due to additional flushes of grass and broadleaved weeds after additional precipitation. The start of the season has also thrown some spanners in the works as fields which are well known for grassweed problems haven't conformed to the norm, seeing a reduction in germination. This leads to a crystal ball situation, and spring herbicide options will need to be considered carefully depending on the weed spectrum.

## Fundatis® herbicide, powered by Isoflex® active

Fundatis® herbicide, powered by Isoflex® active used on farms in the West has been very positive. Agronomists have tried the product in varying situations and mixtures in both the pre and peri timing in wheat and pre-emergence in winter barley. It certainly has been a useful addition to those with resistant grassweeds, and the pink symptoms have been noted in the majority of fields.



## ROBBIE JAMIE

Commercial Technical Manager for the South.

Crops have been drilled, marking a welcome change this autumn. Oilseed rape is a welcome change this autumn also looking strong where it has been established.

Where grassweed pressure is higher, follow-up herbicide applications have been completed or are now nearing completion. Drilling generally started earlier than usual this season, and in fields with a history of heavier grassweed pressure, grassweed levels are more evident. This may also be partly due to the shortened timeframe for stale seedbeds. Overall, autumn residual herbicides have performed well, although the dry and warm conditions during the early drilling period may have had an impact on their efficacy at this stage. The mild weather has meant that aphids are at the forefront of people's minds. Where follow-up grassweed control has taken place, decisions to use insecticides have been straightforward. However, where no follow-up herbicides have been required, how many have been prepared to roll the dice with BYDV? Overall, most crops are now in the ground, with planned winter cropping largely complete—a significant improvement compared with recent autumns. Where Fundatis® herbicide, powered by Isoflex® active, has been applied, the characteristic purpling of weeds has been evident, clearly demonstrating the bixozone effect in action.

## GEORGIA ANTONIOU

Commercial Technical Manager for the East.



### An end to the season

East Anglia and the South East caught the heavy rain that much of the UK experienced in the last week. This feels like it is bringing an end to the season, and field gates will be shut until the New Year, which is fast approaching. In cereals, aphids have been about, but with conditions due to turn cold, they look to be less of a risk moving forward.

Pre-emergence herbicide treatments have worked very well when applied with decent moisture, but some of the earliest drilled crops that had them applied in drier conditions are now facing grassweed challenges.



## ANTONIA WALKER

Commercial Technical Manager for the North and Scotland.

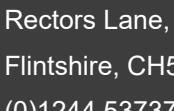
### Scotland

All winter cereals were drilled up in good time, and a dry spell earlier on in autumn meant that cultivations largely went to plan, although some crops initially struggled with water deficit in some areas. On the whole – autumn weed control in autumn drilled cereals has been good. Potatoes have been lifted and are in store in a very timely manner. Winter cereals establishment in Scotland have germinated very well with little disease showing currently, though this may change with the unpredictable and wet weather. The north of Scotland has been a little different with large amounts of rain at times, and some initial frosts have come in; however, it has been a very mild autumn for Scotland apart from the first storms of the season.

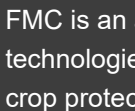
Winter oilseed rape has seen low levels of Cabbage stem flea beetle damage; however, a little Light leaf spot has been seen in some areas, but not in significant amounts. There have been some reports of aphids in earlier drilled cereals.

### Yorkshire

Some very forward-looking WOSR crops and winter cereals have gone in relatively easily – the recent wet weather has been welcomed in terms of aiding establishment and reducing that SMD. Overall, the area of WOSR seems to be up this autumn, but disease pressures are starting to rise. In cereals - little disease pressure, although the earlier drilled cereals are showing some disease symptoms. Weed control in winter cereals has been reasonable with Fundatis® herbicide, powered by Isoflex® active working well in the more northerly parts of the region.



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