

TO. Disease control starting point.

Technical bulletin | February - March 2024

T0 is the perfect time to set up season-long control of key diseases in wheat and barley.

Growers are facing very different crop situations this spring compared to last season, with far more variability in cropping due to later drilling and very wet autumn/winter field conditions.

Not all crops are in good condition going into the spring but those drilled and established earlier are faring better. Where yield potential is already limited, growers should consider using more cost-effective fungicide products for early spray timings in many situations this spring.

Added to this, Clayton trials in 2023 looking at the response to different fungicides at T0 and T1 showed that higher input spend on fungicides at these early timings did not result in a significant yield benefit and may therefore have negatively affected overall margin over input cost.

T0 is therefore the ideal timing to look for cost savings whilst still adequately dealing with early disease management, notably rust.

- Early sowing increases the risk of Septoria and Eyespot, though Septoria pressure is generally much lower than last year.
- An early rust fungicide at T0 has proven often well worthwhile.
- Yellow rust should be a consideration for low resistance scoring varieties; a number of major varieties on the RL score 5 or below.
- Assessing each crop in terms of its overwintered condition and yield potential should be a priority, to tailor T0 sprays accordingly.

- Consider cost-effective upgrades at T0 from single triazoles to co-forms e.g. tebuconazole + prothioconazole for added benefits at little extra cost.
- Use T0 as an opportunity for a 'costeffective' start to control of these diseases.
- Consider T0 fungicides in combination with other integrated strategies including BioSolutions containing biostimulants and beneficial bacteria which can benefit early disease control at this timing e.g. Clayton NUETM Wheat.

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RUST 3 Ē



YELLOW RUST - The main T0 disease focus:

The relatively mild weather over the winter period this season will have been conducive to the survival of Yellow rust pustules on leaves, and the infective footpeg of the disease will not have been significantly affected or reduced, so disease cycles will be faster, re-infecting crops more rapidly and keeping disease pressure high, so the possibility of early epidemics are as likely this spring as in any other season.

Several key varieties on the RL score 5 or less for Yellow rust resistance, notably the milling wheats KWS Zyatt and Skyfall (both score 3 for Yellow rust) and group 4's SY Insitor (5), Gleam (5) and RGT Wolverine (4). Starting a proactive fungicide programme at T0 is key to controlling this disease through to harvest costeffectively.

An effective, preventative triazole-based T0 fungicide treatment is key to season-long Yellow rust control in wheat and Brown rust control in barley (especially hybrids).

SEPTORIA - A useful secondary disease focus at T0:

Despite lower overall disease pressure this season, it will be important to keep Septoria in check in certain crops, relieving pressure and allowing flexibility for growers with later T1 sprays.

This is especially the case in earlier sown crops, more susceptible varieties or areas where disease risk is higher. Folpet offers strong protection against Septoria and is a useful, cost-effective option to consider.

T0 timing flexibility:

T0 sprays should be specifically tailored to disease requirements in each crop. With rust normally the main focus, T0 applications can also reduce Septoria pressure too. The traditional target timing for T0 is GS 30 although there is scope for useful flexibility (especially given the variability in crops this spring) around this timing for growers, with a wider window of GS25-30 possible depending on each individual situation and where disease pressure is higher.

Key T0 options for Clayton fungicides:

Clayton Tebucon 250 EW	Clayton Tuskar	Clayton Navaro	
Active: 250g tebuconazole Suggested rates: 0.5L Disease strengths: Cost-effective rust activity	Active: 250g prothioconazole Suggested rates: 0.55L Disease strengths: Strongest active for stem- based diseases (e.g. Eyespot & stem-based Fusarium) Septoria: protectant and eradicant activity*	Actives: 125g tebuconazole + 125g prothioconazole Suggested rates: 0.6 - 0.7L Disease strengths: Strong all-round activity	

*Prothioconazole has good activity on Brown rust in barley, moderate Yellow rust activity in wheat and good protectant activity against mildew.

Additional T0 options for Clayton fungicides:

Clayton **Ozark**

Active: 250g azoxystrobin Suggested rates: 0.4L (Rust) Disease strengths: Rust and Take-all

Clayton Canyon SC NEW

Active: 500g folpet Suggested rates:

Up to 1.5L

Disease strengths: Strong protection against Septoria

For more information on product choices contact us or visit claytonpp.com

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