

Black Grass Management



Cultural Control

Encourage black grass to chit with light cultivation, then spray off with Roundup® to create a stale seedbed.

No single method works everywhere. Choice depends on soil, crop, machinery, and preference.

- Ploughing buries seed
- Stale seedbeds encourage weed germination
- Rolling after drilling improves establishment and levels soil surface supporting pre-em. applications
- Fine, firm, moist seedbeds aid establishment and herbicide performance, while cloddy surfaces reduce effectiveness

1 t/ha

Just 10–20 plants/m² - or 100 black grass heads - can cut yields by 1 t/ha

*AHDB Project Report No. 560

Post-Harvest Strategy

Delaying drilling until mid/late Oct allows extra flushes to be sprayed off before sowing

Later drilling also reduces black grass emergence in the crop

<https://ahdb.org.uk/sustaining-winter-cropping-under-threat-from-herbicide-resistant-black-grass-alopecurus-myosuroides>

80% of black grass germinates Aug–Oct

Higher seed rates and minimal soil disturbance improve control in late-drilled crops

Higher seed rates cut black grass by up to 28%, but is less effective than delaying autumn sowing

5 cm

Most black grass emerges from seeds within 5 cm of the soil surface*

*<https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/where-are-brome-weeds-found-in-the-uk>

Pre-em. Chemistry Options

Metribuzin: Alternator® Met Octavian® Met and Cadou® Met

Bring **diversity** into the programme at the pre-em. or peri-em. timing

Contain **three modes** of action



+ Proclus®

Adding in **aclonifen** will help with efficacy in dry weather and protect crops for longer

Follow up in 1-2 weeks with alternative modes of action

Timing & Technique

Apply first residual within 48 hrs of drilling (true pre-em.)

Use 200 L/ha water volume

Boom height: 50 cm above soil

Forward speed: up to 12 km/h

Angled nozzles improve coverage on cloddy seedbeds



Autumn Management Takeaways

1 Where possible, **postpone drilling** until mid-October

2 Allow flushes of black grass to be sprayed off with **Roundup®**

3 Apply a metribuzin-containing product at the pre-em timing, with **Proclus®** for extra strength

4 Follow up with an **alternative mode of action 1-2 weeks later**

www.crops.bayer.co.uk/weed-management

Roundup® contains glyphosate. Proclus® contains aclonifen. Alternator® Met contains diflufenican, flufenacet and metribuzin. Octavian® Met contains diflufenican, flufenacet and metribuzin. Cadou® Met contains diflufenican, flufenacet and metribuzin. Roundup, Proclus, Alternator, Octavian and Cadou are registered trademarks of Bayer. All other brand names used are Trademarks of other manufacturers in which proprietary rights may exist. Use plant protection products safely. Always read the label and product information before use. Pay attention to the risk indications and follow the safety precautions on the label. For further information, including contact details, visit www.crops.bayer.co.uk or call 0800 1969324. © Bayer CropScience Limited 2023

