Black Grass
Management

BAYER

Cultural Control

- 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

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.

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
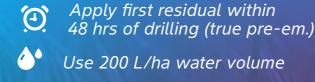
Contain **three modes** of action

+ 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

BAYER