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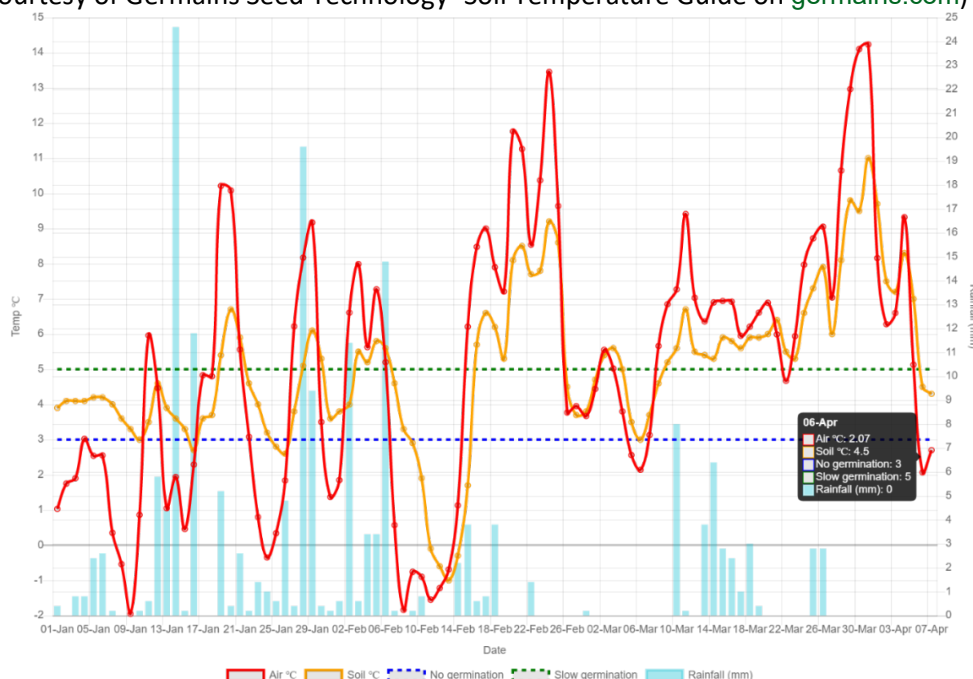


IN BRIEF

- Great progress has been made with drilling over the last week with an estimated 75-80% of crops now drilled.
- Generally, seedbeds with a fine tilth have been produced allowing good seed-soil contact. However, seedbeds are drying rapidly, and lighter land would benefit from some rain.
- Some concerns have been expressed about the impact of the recent low temperatures and frost on germination and emergence. Soil temperatures are currently at 4-5°C and for crops yet to emerge, the soil will provide a buffer to colder air temperatures.

Soil temperatures Bury St Edmunds

(graph courtesy of Germain's Seed Technology- Soil Temperature Guide on germain's.com)



- In most areas, frosts have not been severe or persistent enough to cause too much damage to any emerged crops, but this will vary regionally and there could be exceptions. Check any emerged crops 2-3 days after a frost for damage.
- Cold weather and drying soils may introduce some variation in growth stages both within and between your crops, so keep close watch on different fields, especially for making herbicide timing decisions. Check different varieties as these may emerge at slightly different rates although the difference is usually only a day or two.
- Weed control – don't miss the opportunity to use a pre-emergence herbicide. The use of a pre-emergence residual herbicide generally lengthens the time available to apply post-emergence sprays and may help sensitise weed to post emergence application. In dry soils, pre-emerge activity will be reduced but will pick up again with rain and will still add to the efficacy of any post-emergence sprays.

- As soils are getting dry, don't delay in getting nitrogen on to crops. Make sure there is sufficient time for top-dressed nitrogen to be washed into the soil and available to plants to drive rapid leaf growth.



ADVISORY

Should a pre-emergence herbicide be used?

The use of a pre-emergence residual herbicide generally lengthens the time available to apply post-emergence sprays. Pre-emergence sprays will also sensitise weeds to following sprays. Where black-grass is expected then a pre-emergence spray containing ethofumesate should always be considered, unless the crop is on a black organic soil. There are some weeds such as mayweeds, knotgrass and fat hen where a pre-emergence spray containing metamiltron is useful, as it helps to build up the residual levels within the overall spray programme. If there is any doubt in the ability to apply a timely first post-emergence spray, then think about using a pre-emergence spray:

- Consider using a pre-emergence herbicide of ethofumesate (500g ai/ha) + metamiltron (1400g ai/ha). The inclusion rate of metamiltron can be varied according to weeds expected, but less than 525g ai/ha is not advisable.
- Black-grass is most susceptible to sprays applied pre-emergence, but conditions need to be moist for maximum effectiveness.

The table below shows the herbicide actives that are available for pre and/or post-emergence use. There are only three actives that have approval for pre-em use; ethofumesate, metamiltron and quinmerac. Ethofumesate and metamiltron are available as 'straights' or as formulated products. Quinmerac is only available for pre-emergence use in formulation with metamiltron.

Confirmation from CRD has been obtained regarding the use of ethofumesate straights pre-emergence, it is permitted and it can be used in tank mix with metamiltron at this timing. Ensure that "important information" on product labels are adhered to with respect to maximum individual doses.

Active	Residual	Contact	Pre-emergence	Post-emergence	HRAC (2020)	Strengths
clopyralid		✓		✓	4	Volunteer potatoes, Thistles, Mayweeds, Black-bindweed
dimethenamid-p	✓			✓	15	Cranesbill, Shepherd's purse, Poppy, Cleavers
ethofumesate	✓	✓	✓	✓	15	Cleavers, Knotgrass, Black-bindweed, Chickweed, Annual meadow grass, Fat hen, Orache
Formasulfuron (Conviso chemistry)		✓		✓	2	Broad spectrum
lenacil	✓			✓	5	Brassica species, Black-bindweed, Knotgrass, Persicaria
metamiltron	✓	✓	✓	✓	5	Mayweeds, Knotgrass, Small nettle, Fat hen, Orache, Annual meadow grass
phenmedipham		✓		✓	5	Black-bindweed, Fat hen, Charlock, Ivy-leaved speedwell
quinmerac	✓		✓	✓	4	Cleavers, Ivy-leaved speedwell, Fool's parsley
thiencarbazone-methyl (Conviso chemistry)	✓	✓		✓	2	Broad spectrum
triflusalufuron-methyl		✓		✓	2	Brassica species, Fool's parsley, Cleavers, Mayweeds



EVENTS

If you were not able to join us during the **BBRO BeetTech week** for the live Q & A on March 11th, you can access a recording of the event and the supporting videos on the BBRO website. There are four video presentations on managing virus yellows, weeds, seedbed, and environmental stress and cercospora in 2021. You can of course, also contact the BBRO team directly if you have any question.



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