Oilseed Rape

Growers Brief

Benefits of Growing Oilseed Rape

- Oilseed Rape (OSR) is a first-class break crop for cereal rotations. By growing OSR we can effectively break down the natural cycle of disease build-up in cereals. For example winter wheat planted after OSR typically yields 10% greater than wheat followed by another cereal; and costs less to produce.
- OSR provides an excellent opportunity to control problematic grass weeds with different chemical herbicide options.
- Different sowing, spraying and harvest timings to winter cereals are especially valuable in spreading the workload at critical times of the year.
- Our growers are supported with industry leading agronomy; providing experienced, knowledgeable and timely advice.

Establishment

A good seedbed is important for an OSR crop due to the shallow planting depth. The objective is to prepare a fine, firm seedbed which allows good seed-to-soil contact. OSR roots can penetrate deep into the soil when unrestricted and when provided with good soil conditions. This gives the plant greater ability to uptake moisture and nutrients, increasing yield. Growers should aim for an established plant population of 25-35 plants/m2. This will ensure an optimum canopy is achieved and the yield potential maximised.

Weed Control

Grass weeds are much easier to control in OSR than other crops. The ability to use different herbicides with alternative modes of action allows growers to control hard to kill grass weeds and reduce risk of building up chemical resistance. Clethodim can be used from 2 leaf stage and gives good control of most grasses. During winter, propyzamide (Kerb) can be used to control harder to kill grass weeds and cereals. The most effective broadleaf control is a combination of Magister®CS and Treflan® as a pre-emerge.

Fertiliser

Applied Nitrogen (N) usually gives the greatest yield response compared with other nutrient applications. Autumn N applications maybe required where the supply of plant-available N in autumn is very low. The main N applications are in spring when the crop is growing rapidly. Spring applications are planned during August following assessments of crop canopy and soil N. OSR N requirement is 150-200 units depending on yield goals.

Sulphur (S) is important for better N use efficiency, oil quality and yield. OSR has a large requirement for S and it needs to be available to the crop very early in the spring. Typically an application of 70-100kg/ha of Sulphate Sulphur (SO3) applied in spring.

Potassium (K), the highest yields have come from crops that have either had extra K supplied in a spring application or have high K soils. Due to the majority of the OSR plant being green biomass and the bulk of the crop remaining in the paddock after harvest, only a small amount of K is removed. This provides an opportunity to build potassium levels in the soil.

Disease & Pest Control

Disease development is strongly influenced by rainfall, temperature and the carry over of disease from previous crops. The most important foliar diseases to monitor and manage are Sclerotinia, Phoma and Alternaria. A good fungicide program with applications in late autumn and spring will protect the crop and greatly increase yield. In conjunction with spring fungicides, insecticides can also be applied to control aphids which infest the flower tips and reduce yield.

Canopy Management

OSR crop canopies are the production centre for yield. The ideal canopy is moderate in size, upright and exposed to the sun, allowing maximum photosynthesis. The aim of a canopy management is to produce this ideal canopy, by managing fertiliser inputs and use of plant growth regulators.

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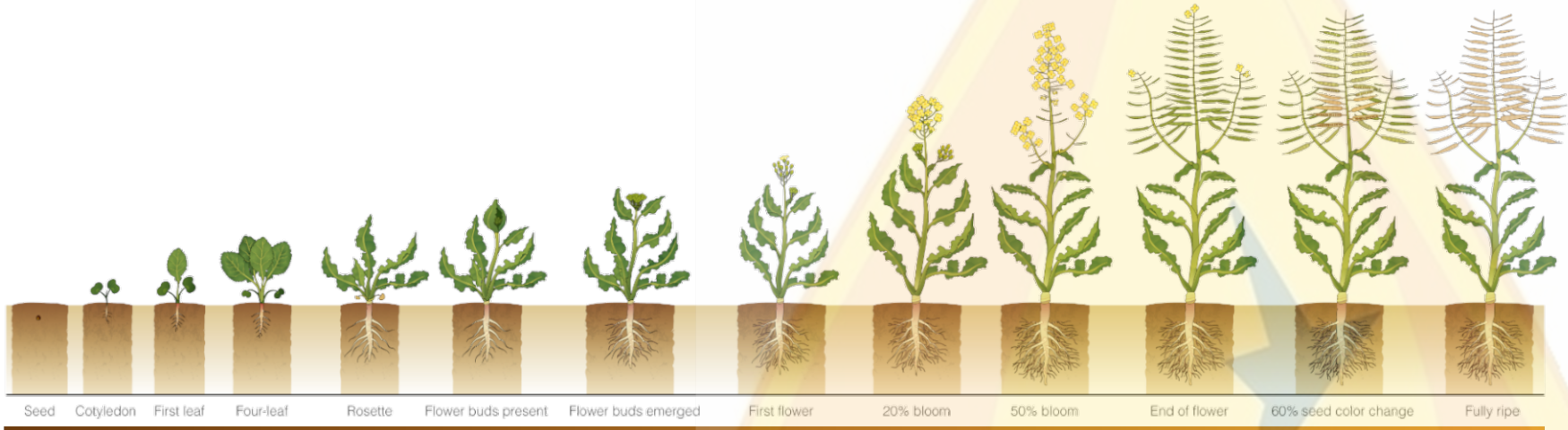
Germination	Emergence	Leaf development	Stem extension	Bud formation	Flowering	Pod formation	Ripening
GS 0 – 09	GS 10 – 19	GS 20 – 27	GS 30 – 39	GS 40 – 59	GS 60 – 69	GS 70 – 79	GS 80 – 89
March	March/April	April/August	September	September/October	October/November	November/December	December/January



Cultivation
Sowing
Harvest
Pre-emerge
Post-emerge Herbicide
Desiccation
Boron
Boron, Molybdenum
Base P & K
Nitrogen
N & S
Nitrogen
Irrigation
Slugs
Birds
Aphids
Aphids
Cutworm
Fungicide
PGR
Fungicide
Phoma
Sclerotinia
Alternaria