

Sacha White

- ***Would you say an early drilled crop with moderate level larvae will be more/less adversely affected than a late drilled crop with low level larvae?***

Difficult one to answer at the moment. It's a question we're hoping to understand more about in the current project. Based on what we know, and all things being equal, so far it appears that early sown crops are better able to tolerate larval pressure than late sown but this tolerance is likely affected by several other factors. For example, if an early sown crop drilled at a high seed rate it may be less tolerant than one sown at low seed rate.

- ***Does the seed treatment Limposa now have approval in the UK?***

Lumiposa is not currently authorised in the UK. It is authorised as a seed treatment in Hungary, Poland and Romania with ongoing reviews in other Member States. Current EU legislation allows seed treated in Poland, Hungary and Romania to be sold and planted in the EU 28. It is a condition of use that the product must only be applied by professional treatment. Corteva Agriscience have no guardianship of the imported treated seed. UK growers who have purchased imported seed and have enquiries about its performance should contact their seed supplier from whom they purchased the seed.

- ***Have you done any work looking at the difference between Hybrid and conventional varieties and their ability to overcome flea beetle damage?***

We assessed 20 or so varieties (This included conventional and hybrid varieties) in trials in the IPM project for AHDB (final report here). There was no clear evidence to suggest that any differed in their susceptibility or attractiveness to CSFB. There was limited evidence that some varieties were more tolerant than others. The new AHDB-funded project (details here) has several breeder run trials further investigating potential tolerance to CSFB.

Can you explain the fact that there were large numbers of adult CSFBs in the 2019 and 2020 harvested crops that came into store, yet the numbers seen in the following sown OSR crops were a lot lower in autumn 2020?

Our data suggests that, at least in some areas, numbers of CSFB this autumn are similar to 2019. We did have a wetter August this year and our modelling work found this to be associated with lower damage from adults. Possibly because they're less active and fly less but also because the moisture will help crops grow away from damage.

- ***I need to talk about the sheer number of CSFB in Beckbury. This is in the middle of my patch and hardly any Pyrethroids were used. Is this the reason?***

It's possible that pyrethroids could have controlled the CSFB. But pyrethroid resistance has spread across the country including Shropshire (assuming this is Beckbury, Shrops) so it's just as possible that pyrethroids would have limited efficacy. We're seeing increasing CSFB pressure in the west Midlands and this likely due to the spread of resistance reducing levels of control and increased WOSR cultivation.

- ***Crops under stress seem to suffer more CSFB damage, have you found this in your data?***

We've not specifically investigated the interaction of crop stress and CSFB damage but there's a large amount of circumstantial evidence showing that crops that are emerging unevenly and establishing slowly are at higher risk from CSFB.

Sarah Kendall

- ***Am I missing a trick? I don't know how to organise the weather factors associated with better yields.***

Agreed that we can't predict the weather or influence it, but we can use our understanding of how the weather impacts yields to manage the crops and decision making. For example, if winters become warmer and wetter, we may seek varieties which are more tolerant of these conditions. One aspect of this is avoiding using varieties with rapid early development in early sow date slots, to avoid them starting stem extension before winter. Another aspect is choosing later maturing varieties that may be better at tolerating warm springs/summers. So I think that using the RL date to flowering and maturity will be helpful for this. I think one issue for OSR is that many varieties are bred in other European countries with colder winters, so they can struggle in our maritime climate with milder winters.

- ***Sarah - any difference between hybrids and conventional vars in achieving big yields?***

No, we didn't see a significant association between variety and yield, nor hybrids and high yields. 62% of the crops were hybrid, 25% conventional and 13% were unknown. Site, weather and husbandry factors have more influence on yield than variety choice. Despite this matching variety traits with growing environment still recognised as important. It should also be noted that the YEN entrants are probably choosing suitable varieties to match their situation.

- ***25-40 plants /m2 seems a huge number especially if sowing in 500cm rows. is this based on Hybrid or conventional varieties?***

Agreed that for wide rows, this could mean that plants would be bunched up down the row. It is certainly possible to obtain very good yields with far fewer plants, as OSR is very good at compensating against low plant populations. This range represents sensible plant populations for conventionals and hybrids, but we have seen evidence that the economic optimum seed rate can be lower (but not always) due to either the increased seed cost or to better compensation against low plant population.