



Key Points for the Production of a Successful Crop of Winter Oilseed Rape

Variety

- Choose a proven variety - do not take chances with such a high value crop
- Reliable yield performance and good standing power (e.g. Sensation hybrid)
- Hybrid types can be useful for overcoming pest and weather issues

Establishment

- Sow early – 15th August to 10th September, earlier the better as big plants will deal better with slug and pigeon attack
- Clear previous crop quickly to ensure suitable sowing date, winter barley ideal for this
- Pay attention to sowing rate, base decisions on TGW & conditions
- Plough based establishment is more reliable due to less slug pressure, pellets must be applied immediately following rolling
- If using Thiram treated seed (neonicotinoids to be banned), monitor carefully for flea beetle at early stages

Weed Control

- Butisan or Katamaran (Cleavers & Poppy), apply immediately after rolling or delay until very early post emergence if heavy rain forecast after sowing
- Graminicide for volunteer cereals & wild oats
- Salsa can be very effective at controlling Charlock if applied early to the actively growing weed

Crop Nutrition, Disease control & Growth Regulation

- WOSR has a high demand for N, P, K & Sulphur. Applying some of the N late will greatly benefit pod fill and eventual yield. Hold back approx. 30-40 units N till the latest time at which you can spread over the crop
- Don't forget micro nutrients such as Boron & Magnesium
- Fungicide choice will be based on requirement for crop shortening versus disease control; Prothioconazole is excellent for disease control whereas Metconazole & Tebuconazole are better when shortening is required.

Harvesting

- Direct harvesting with combine harvester safer in Irish climate than swathing
- Swathing was more important when Diquat was used to desiccate
- Desiccating with Glyphosate and the use of Pod Sealants makes the ripe standing crop more shed resistant
- Extendable headers greatly improve harvesting output and reduce losses
- Crop will take 2.5 – 3 weeks to ripen following desiccation. Once the crop is ripe, the moisture content will drop very quickly in the right weather