

When is the right time to apply Flomide or Engage on Oilseed rape and Winter Beans ?

Autumn 2008 is certainly proving to be a challenge for arable farming. Achieving good weed control under current conditions is not easy. However, with Flomide and Engage, there is a degree of flexibility.

Summary
If conditions are currently difficult, Flomide and Engage have some timing flexibility allowing growers to still get effective weed control in oilseed rape and winter beans.

Timing and Crop Size

Flomide (400g/L propyzamide) and **Engage** (50%WDG) can be applied to oilseed rape up to the end of January.

- For good results, it requires cool moist soils so that the propyzamide can penetrate and persist in the surface layer about 2 cms to the weed root zone.
- Crop size is not significant, as long as the crop roots are below the herbicide layer. The crop size guide of 3 true leaf is used on the label as an indicator of this. This means that backward or mixed growth-stage crops can also be treated.
- Oilseed rape has remarkable powers of recovery in spring, so thin or backward crops should be viewed with some confidence and the opportunity should be taken to exercise weed control with a resistance management treatment. There is no black-grass resistance to propyzamide.
- In case of crop failure, there are a variety of crop replacement options. Contact Interfarm for more information.

Weather and soil conditions

Propyzamide can be applied in frosty conditions as it has no contact activity. If conditions are not currently favourable and with application possible up to the end of January, it may be wise to wait for suitable conditions.

- Excessive rainfall can cause surface water run-off into water courses and lead to disappointing weed control as well as pollution.
- If black-grass has developed root systems that the product is unlikely to reach, then the addition of a suitable graminicide can help counteract this. The combination of propyzamide and a fop/dim type product often results in surprisingly good control even if the black-grass is known to exhibit fop/dim resistance when treated with such a product alone. A suitable fungicide can be added to this combination. Check the possible tank mixes.

Winter Beans

The timing for winter beans is pre-emergence.

- If conditions prevent this and crops are beginning to show, then application will not cause harm, but growers should always try to stay within the label requirements.
- Check if any other products in the tank are safe at this stage.

Summary of label recommendations

Product	Crop	Rate	Timing
Flomide	Oilseed rape	2.1L/ha	From 1 st Oct when crop is at or after 3 true leaf stage to end of Jan
Flomide	Winter beans	2.1L/ha	From 1 st Oct when crop is pre-emergence, within 7 days of drilling.
Engage	Oilseed rape	1.7kg/ha	From 1 st Oct when crop is at or after 3 true leaf stage to end of Jan
Engage	Winter beans	1.7kg/ha	From 1 st Oct when crop is pre-emergence, within 7 days of drilling.

For further information please ring Interfarm on 01354 741414 or email technical@interfarm.co.uk

Read the label before use. Use Pesticides safely

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