

Downy Mildew in Oilseed Rape

Downy mildew of oilseed rape is, surprisingly, one of the commonest diseases of the crop, appearing in the autumn and then building up on lower leaves in the spring during extension growth. In the autumn it causes yellowing of leaves and cotyledons which can become bleached with age. White spore-bearing structures appear on the lower leaf surfaces.

Summary

Quell Flo should be used as soon as possible to protect against the high incidence of downy mildew currently on oilseed rape crops this autumn.

- **Whilst such effects are often transient, the disease can become a problem** when conditions are conducive for the disease, especially in slow growing or late emerging crops when there is reduced time available to put on fresh growth before the winter dormant period, **such as this year.**
- **This autumn,** the delayed harvest has meant a later than normal sowing period for oilseed rape and the moist warm conditions has encouraged infection. Downy mildew can be seen widely across the emerged crop.
- **Treatment is simple and inexpensive.** The disease, *Peronospora parasitica*, is an Oomycete which means it is in the same family as potato blight. Curative control in oilseed rape is not really possible but good protection can be given by using Quell Flo.

Quell Flo contains 455g/L mancozeb in a SC formulation suitable for combinable crops. It has protectant activity against a wide range of fungal diseases delivering multi-site activity to manage any resistance risk.

Other Benefits

Quell Flo at 1.5L/ha delivers 683g mancozeb/ha. Mancozeb is 20% manganese which means the crop will also receive 137g manganese/ha. This is a significant nutritional dose which will help to improve canopy colour and management. Better canopy management in the autumn gives other benefits such as improved root development and fewer pigeon landing gaps. Also, greener crops attract fewer aphids than yellow crops.

Application Facts

Quell Flo Rate for moderate protection – 1.5L/ha

Max individual dose for oilseed rape – 2.8L/ha

Latest time of application – End Dec in year of sowing.

Water rate -- 200L/ha to give good coverage

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

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