

NEWS RELEASE

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ADAS trial results support use of sulphur-based fungicide

Trials by ADAS show that Vertipin, a sulphur-based fungicide recently introduced to the UK, not only boosts and protects new chemistry but is also effective against mildew and has no negative effects on other products used to combat yellow rust.

Introduced to the UK by Sipcaml, Vertipin comprises sulphur as the active ingredient and terpenes. In addition to adding adjuvant benefits to the formulation, these pine terpenes help to create a liquid formulation that is convenient and easy to use. Combined with the use of high grade sulphur of uniform particle size, the terpenes ensure there is minimal risk of blockage and provide good compatibility with other crop protection products.

Sulphur is a known multisite alternative to fungicides that are no longer available and works best when added to the leading single site chemistry. Sipcaml has therefore worked with ADAS to carry out a series of trials using different fungicide programmes. In 2021 these were designed to test effectiveness against Septoria. Over three ADAS sites in Wales, Herefordshire and Devon, Vertipin provided protection when used on its own but achieved an extra 30-40% reduction in disease and an average of 0.34 t/ha increase in yield when used at 3 L/ha with a standard programme that included Revystar® XE at T2.

Jonathan Blake, Technical Director of Crop Protection at ADAS, concluded that Vertipin added useful septoria control and gave a clear yield response. It also added resilience to the fungicide programme, as products with multisite activity such as Vertipin are less likely to suffer reduced efficacy and help to protect the single site fungicides over time.

Last year, additional trials programmes were developed to examine powdery mildew control. Vertipin was used on its own or with other products at T0 and T1. Used on its own, Vertipin was shown to halve the impact of mildew. When combined with popular fungicides such as Proline and Helix it improved efficacy against mildew threefold, achieving very good control overall.

Broad spectrum Proline is also used as a protectant against yellow rust. A trials programme was therefore developed to test the effect of adding sulphur on Proline's protectant role. Proline was used on its own and with Vertipin at 2.0l/ha. Three separate assessments over two leaf layers showed no reduction in Proline's ability to protect wheat from yellow rust.

Extra data was also gathered to assess Septoria control. As in 2021, this once again indicated a significant benefit of adding Vertipin in the tank mix.

Jonathan Blake said:

The combination of early drilling after last year's dry summer and a mild October means that in general wheat crops are well developed. This also means there is a high level of Septoria inoculum in crops. Depending on the weather this spring we could see a lot of Septoria and farmers will need an effective control regime. Our trials have shown once again that sulphur can be a useful addition in the fight against Septoria and has additional benefits."

Stewart Woodhead of Sipcam said:

"The trials data shows that when applied at 2 l/ha Vertipin is just as effective as other multisite products available in the UK. The dose response continues up to 3 l/ha and farmers aiming for an even greater level of control, or perhaps when conditions are very challenging, may wish to use it at this rate, when it will also offer good control of powdery mildew.

"Vertipin has added advantages provided by its high quality formulation. The adjuvant effects provided by the terpenes in particular make it a good partner for other products and spray operators can be confident it will be easy to use."

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