

Advice for blackgrass control in oilseed rape

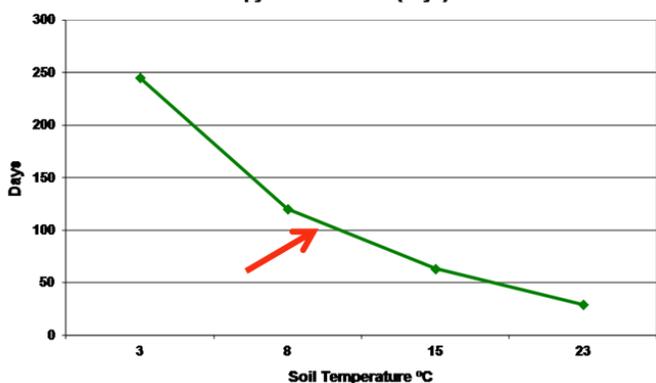
Farmers and agronomists may be tempted to apply Kerb Flo 500 or Astrokerb early where the blackgrass problem is acute and conditions are ideal for grassweed growth, based on concerns that a delay will reduce efficacy as roots develop to depth. The period of residual control will be shortened but they believe that the majority of the blackgrass has germinated anyway

Best advice

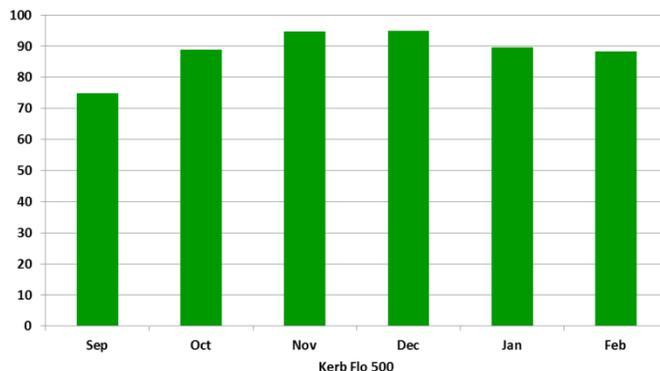
For the best results to be achieved with Kerb® Flo 500 or Astrokerb® for blackgrass control, the temptation to apply too early should be avoided.

Propyzamide, the active ingredient in Kerb Flo 500 and Astrokerb, in common with other residual herbicides, breaks down quickly in warm soils. If you treat when the soil is too warm, the speed of break-down may lead to insufficient concentration of propyzamide in the rooting zone of the blackgrass, possibly leading to poorer levels of control of blackgrass which is already emerged.

Propyzamide Half-Life (days)



Mean % Control of Blackgrass in trials



Corteva Agriscience have consistently advised waiting to make applications of Kerb Flo 500 until the soil temperatures have got down to 10°C and falling at 30cms depth, and there is sufficient moisture in the soil for plant uptake. These combined criteria are rarely met in the main oilseed rape growing areas of the UK before November.

The investment Corteva Agriscience has made in developing and refining this advice means Kerb Flo 500 is regarded as a reliable herbicide for the control of blackgrass.

Best advice remains to wait for the correct temperature before making applications of Kerb Flo 500 to winter oilseed rape. Application when the soils are too warm may result in 5% and possibly 10% less control of the blackgrass.

Use the Kerb Weather Data and postcode tool to apply your product at the correct time <https://www.corteva.co.uk/tools-and-advice/kerb-weather-data.html>



FAQs

If I wait, won't the blackgrass roots be too big / too deep for outstanding control?

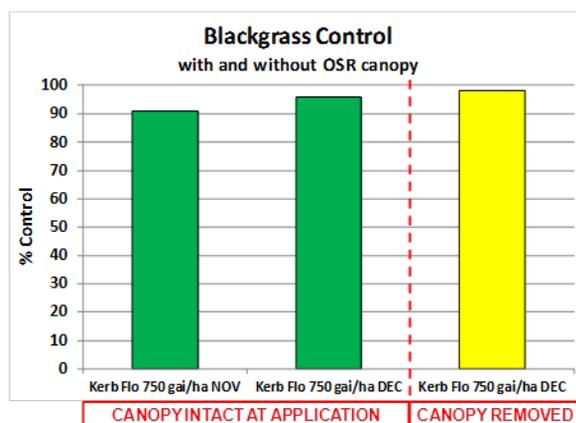
Propyzamide, the active ingredient for blackgrass in Kerb Flo 500 and Astrokerb, works mainly by root uptake in the top 5 cm of soil. As long as the oilseed rape has been established using min-till techniques, the majority of the blackgrass will be shallow rooted and even when it develops a more extensive root system, is still likely to have sufficient roots in the Kerb activity zone for uptake.

If severe frosts are experienced before Kerb application, there may be some shear of surface roots. In this situation adventitious roots may subsequently develop, which will take up propyzamide from a later application. In this scenario we have seen excellent results from December/January application.

Will large crop canopies interfere with blackgrass control?

Trials have shown that even where canopies are dense, excellent blackgrass control can be achieved once optimum soil conditions are met.

As Astrokerb will mainly be used for blackgrass, this should drive application timing. Astrokerb has both contact and root activity on poppies and mayweeds and in our extensive trials programme, when optimally timed for blackgrass control even where canopies were large, control of these broad-leaved weeds has been good.



German trial 2011M2

How can I improve blackgrass control?

Independent trials have consistently shown the effectiveness of using a programmed approach to blackgrass control in oilseed rape. The results from these independent trials mean that Corteva Agriscience advocates a programme consisting of a metazachlor product pre or early post emergence, if necessary, an ACCase herbicide to control volunteer cereals (this should be a "fop" if clethodim (Centurion Max) is to be used in the same programme). Then follow with clethodim in October, and Kerb Flo 500 or Astrokerb in November (N.B. leave a period of 14 days after an application of clethodim before applying Kerb Flo 500 or Astrokerb). This approach maximises the opportunity to achieve the best blackgrass control.

Clethodim should not be tank mixed with Kerb Flo 500 or Astrokerb, however we strongly recommend use of this active as part of a blackgrass control programme. Independent trials have proved how effective a programme of clethodim, followed by Kerb Flo 500 or Astrokerb, can be in controlling high levels of blackgrass in oilseed rape crops.

(N.B. when spraying at the blackgrass rate of 1.7 L/ha, with either Kerb Flo 500 or Astrokerb, the minimum water volume/ha for cross-compliance is 200 litres. The minimum water volume also applies to other formulations of propyzamide).

Should I mix or sequence carbetamide with Kerb Flo 500 or Astrokerb?

Corteva Agriscience does not support this approach:

- A sequence or tank mix of carbetamide and Kerb Flo 500 or Astrokerb is not a responsible strategy given the risk that high levels of propyzamide and carbetamide reach surface waters (used for drinking water).
- Our data shows that a correctly-timed treatment of Kerb Flo 500 or Astrokerb, applied in a sequence with a graminicide such as Centurion Max, provides better control than sequences or tank mixes with carbetamide.
- Corteva Agriscience continues to work hard to defend propyzamide from regulatory restrictions. As a key molecule for blackgrass control in arable rotations the consequence of losing the product will be severe. Please use the products responsibly.