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BCPC Diseases Group: review of activities and future direction

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www.adas.co.uk



Who are we?

Forum for discussion: plant health issues, new legislation, developments and research.

First annual review held in December 2014.

Topics since 2020:

Optimising crop health

Exploring alternatives

Challenges and tools for IPM

Balancing food security and environmental responsibility

Managing diseases in future farming systems



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Meeting themes based around industry relevant topics

Policy paper **UK Pesticides National Action Plan 2025: Working for a more sustainable future** Published 21 March 2025

Contents

Introduction

Objective 1: Encourage uptake of Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Objective 2: Set clear targets and measures to monitor use of pesticides

Objective 3: Strengthen compliance to ensure safety and better environmental outcomes

References

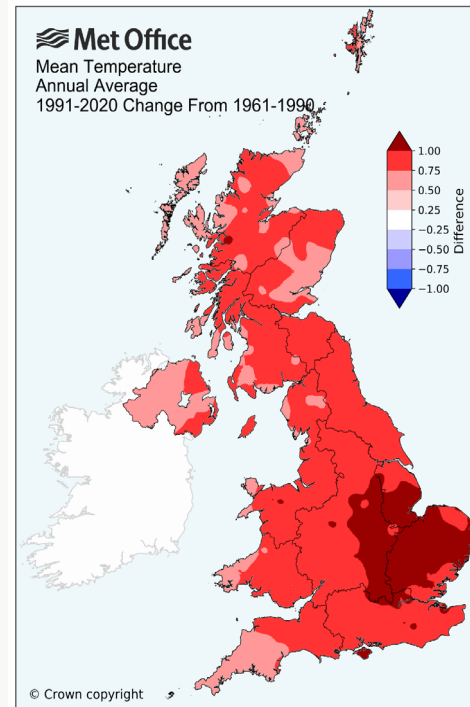
Annex 1: Statutory obligations for a Pesticides National Action Plan

Annex 2: Integrated pest management principles

Annex 3: Pesticide facts and figures



How climate change may increase pest and disease threats



Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in farming

Climate Change and Agriculture

Building an IPM strategy: see our IPM plans and tool

27 September 2023

Text only view



New wheat fungicide anticipated in disease resistance battle



Using integrated pest management to grow healthy crops and support nature

[The Team](#), 26 March 2025 - [Farming across the UK](#)

Climate change is boosting the threat of mycotoxins

Fusarium: How to assess and manage the risk in cereals

Using IPM to reduce reliance on fungicides

Why regulatory changes are needed for biopesticides

Can decision support systems narrow the odds on making better choices?

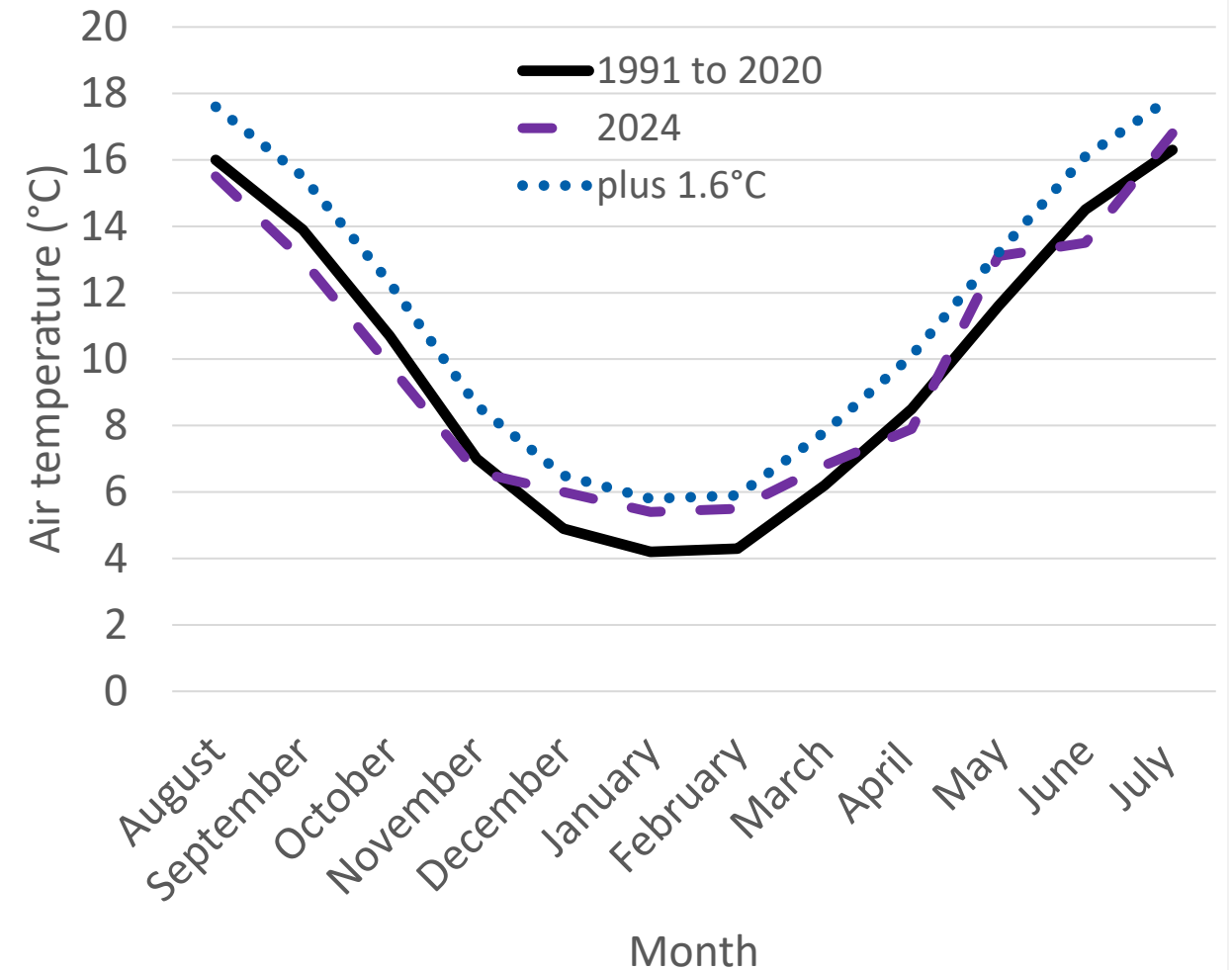
How digital tools can inform disease management strategies

DEFRA: New legislation to support precision breeding and boost Britain's food security

Can wheat blends raise yields and cut disease control costs?

Changing climate

- Mycotoxins
- Product Stewardship
- Integrated Disease Management
- Alternatives to conventional approaches



Source: Met Office 30-year average (1991 to 2020)

Mycotoxins

Challenges around the Fusarium disease complex

F. graminearum, F. culmorum (DON and ZON)
F. langsethiae, F. sporotrichoides (HT-2 and T-2)
F. verticillioides, F. proliferatum (Fumonisin)

Legislative changes

Impacts of changing practices on mycotoxin risk

Breeding varieties with better resistance

One Health: sustainable production & mycotoxin risk



Photographs courtesy of Julie Smith, ADAS

Cultivation practices and impact on mycotoxins



Product stewardship

Process of developing new modes of action is increasingly challenging, complex and costly

Regulatory implications and loss of active ingredients

Working together to produce best practice advice

Implement stewardship before there is a problem

Better understanding of integrated management strategies to support product stewardship



FUNGICIDE RESISTANCE ACTION COMMITTEE

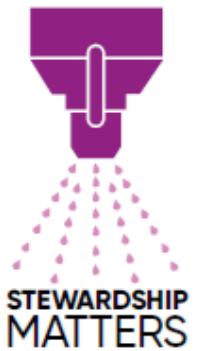


FRAG - UK

2025 Zorvec™ active application advice for potatoes.

Products containing Zorvec™ active deliver highly effective disease control against potato Late Blight.

Corteva strongly advise following the 2025 application advice when recommending and applying Zorvec products.



STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

Integrated Disease Management

Support for planning integrated management strategies is important

Pathogen populations are complex

Targeted fungicide use and resistant varieties can decrease GHG emissions

Good fundamental understanding of pathogen populations and biology

How to integrate and use decision support tools, including forecasting models and PCR-based tests.



What is the IPM Tool for?

The tool provides specific guidance on the IPM control measures that are relevant to the crops you grow, and the particular pests, weeds and diseases

How do I use the IPM Tool?

For a set of short videos showing how to use the tool, click here:
[On how to set up →](#)

Who created the IPM Tool?

The tool was produced by crop protection and IPM specialists at ADAS and SRUC.

To see how many other users use this intervention:

[Hide benchmarking](#)

This year we got 618 responses from other users to this question

	Percentage of users
Use in current cropping season	96%
Intend to use in future seasons	3%
Not suitable for my farming system	1%
No intention to implement	0%

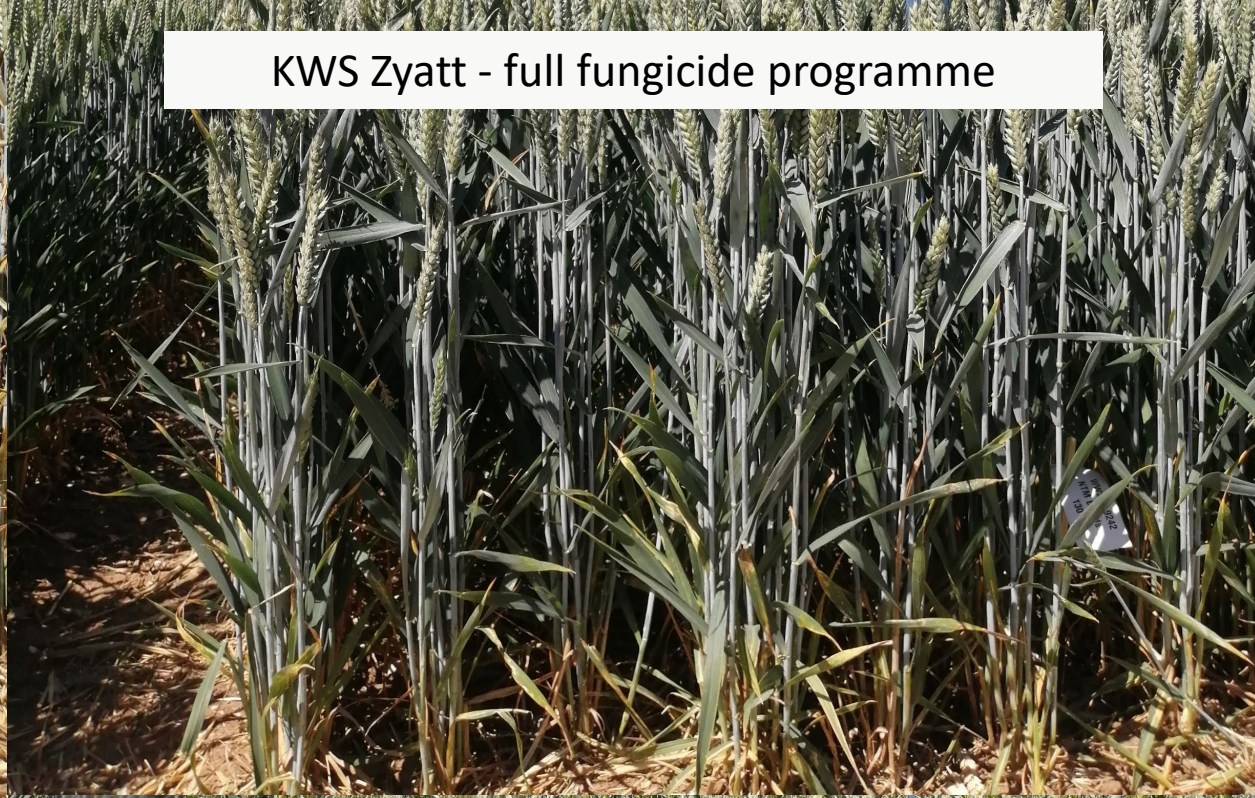
Last year we got 178 responses from other users to this question

	Percentage of users
Use in current cropping season	92%
Intend to use in future seasons	7%
No intention to implement	1%
Not suitable for my farming system	1%

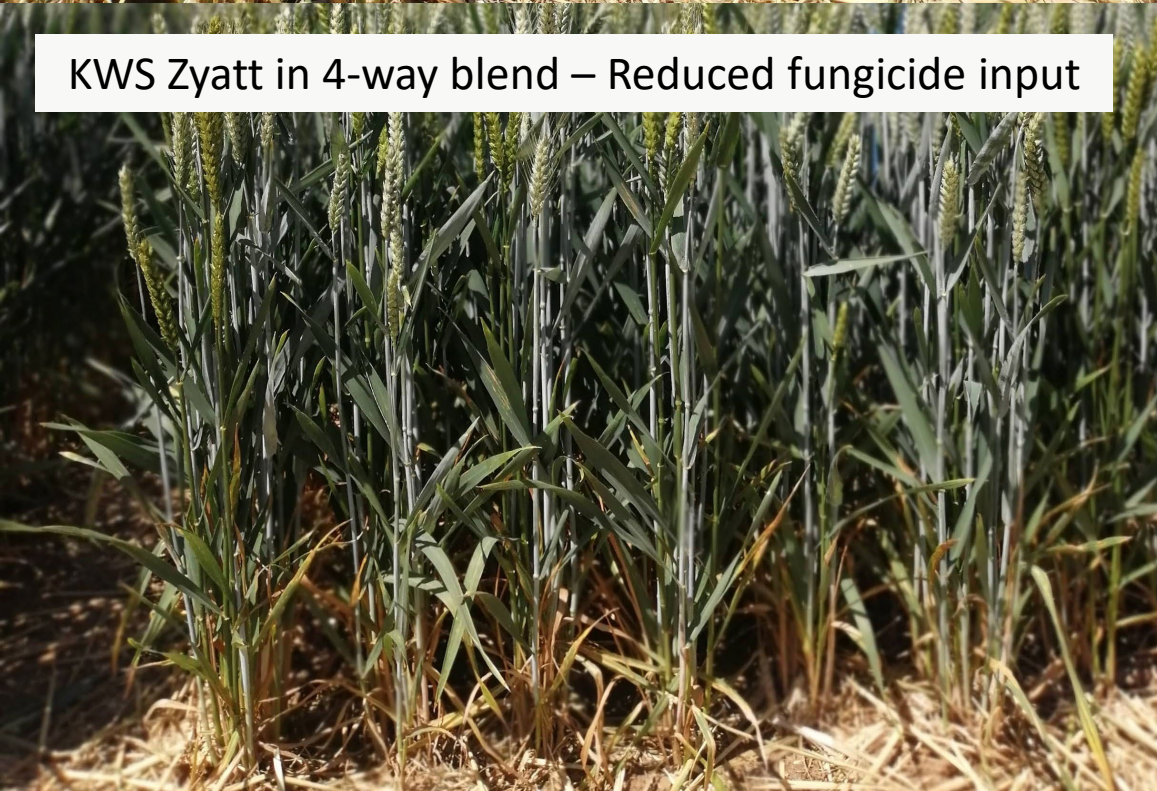
KWS Zyatt - untreated



KWS Zyatt - full fungicide programme



KWS Zyatt in 4-way blend – Reduced fungicide input



KWS Zyatt in a 4-way blend - untreated



Getting information to the right place



A 2021 Survey highlighted differences in where information comes from depending on role

Type of crop may also impact how information is shared

Differences in the type and need for information

How to make information easily accessible

Information source	Farmer	Agronomist
Farming press	59.6%	30.8%
Social media	30.3%	57.7%
Product manufacturer representative	26.2%	46.2%
Levy/research organisations	46.1%	53.9%
Open days/crop walks	43.5%	53.9%

Phone survey with 267 Farmers and 26 Agronomists in Scotland. Data courtesy of Neil Havis, SRUC.

Alternatives to conventional approaches

Biopesticides and how to integrate them with current practices.

Currently differences in the process for registration of low-risk products, compared to EU.

Biostimulants, elicitors and biofungicides

Integration requires underpinning information and careful management

More information on application, persistence, influence of weather etc.



The BCPC Diseases Working Group view

Position statement: *Industry must lead the move to smart, sustainable crop disease management practices, embracing alternative crop protection strategies, new technology, and data-based approaches to secure productivity and regulatory compliance*

What we see as future priorities:

- Practical and applied research that allows farmers and growers to use crop protection strategies with confidence.
- How to get innovative approaches on farm and integrate these with current practice – precision breeding
- Balance: regulatory landscape, loss of active ingredients and the risks from fungicide insensitivity
- Accessibility of the outputs from projects fully or partially-funded by government
- Link effective and proven integrated strategies with incentives

Thank you to the BCPC Diseases Working Group members



Julian Westaway (MD, BCPC)

Jon West (Secretary)

Liz Beal (RHS)

Fiona Burnett (SRUC)

Craig Chisholm (Corteva)

Andrew Flind (BASF)

Dina Gomez (PGRO)

Becky Howard (PGRO)

David Howard (Hutchinsons)

Georgia Hassell (AHDB)

Charlotte Nellist (Niab)

Peter Noal (Bayer)

Aoife O'Driscoll (Niab)

Chris O'Reilly (CRD)

Marion Self (AICC)

Jason Tatnell (Syngenta)

Mike Ashworth, all
previous Chairs,
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Thank you to recent presenters, Chairs and student posters

Nick Anderson
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Henry Creissen
Derek Croucher
Steve Dennis
Simon Edwards
Tamara Fitters
Richard Fitzpatrick
Mike Grimmer
Roma Gwynn
Neil Havis
Lea Herold

Kostya Kanyuka
Andy Leader
Martin Lines
Ben Lowe
Tim Mauchline
Reuben Morris
Paul Neve
Aoife O'Driscoll
Matevs Papp-Rupar
Pete Skelsey
Kate Storer
Natarajan Subramani
Peter Waldock
Philip Walker
Jenna Watts

Student Posters

Morgan Wodring, FERA
Elin Falla, Cambridge University
Lisa Humbert, Rothamsted
Laura Sapelli, University of Hertfordshire
Lisa King, University of Warwick
James Fortune, University of Hertfordshire
George Crane, University of Cambridge
Morgan Millen, University of Bristol
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