



OILSEED RAPE STUBBLE MANAGEMENT

Oilseed rape volunteers can be a problem throughout any rotation but particularly where farmers are aiming to grow Vistive or HEAR industrial varieties of rape where volunteers of the wrong type can contaminate future crops. Oilseed rape seeds are best left on the surface to either rot or grow, rather than being incorporated immediately after combining. If the seed is buried dry it is more likely to go dormant and be a worse problem in subsequent years. This means the common practice of cultivating immediately behind the combine for cereal stubbles does not usually apply to rape. Strategies for different scenarios are described below:

MAIN TARGET - VOLUNTEER RAPE

- **WAIT.** Leaving the seed to germinate on the surface is probably the best way of lowering the population of volunteers. The time span for the majority of seeds to chit will depend on the weather, but usually within a couple of weeks. Sometimes a rolling could be considered to ensure a quicker chit with the weathered surface soil acting as an excellent seedbed for a quick flush.
- **SPRAY 1.** Spray off the volunteers with Roundup as soon as the majority of plants have 2 true leaves. Use 540g/ha of glyphosate. Aim to go early at the low rate and then repeat. (If this is not possible and the rape plants are >6 true leaves use 1080g/ha of glyphosate. Larger plants are much tougher to kill, so they need double the rate, plus they tend to shade each other and lead to poorer control).
- **CULTIVATE.** Next lightly cultivate to encourage a second flush of rape and all the other annual weeds.
- **SPRAY 2.** Spray again at the low rate as soon as there is sufficient growth.

MAIN TARGET- RESISTANT ANNUAL GRASSES

In situations where resistance management of Black-grass, Italian Ryegrass, Wild oats or Barren Brome control outweighs the volunteer rape consideration, the stubble should be cultivated immediately after combining as recommended for cereal stubbles in the Clean start guide.

MAIN TARGET- PERENNIAL WEEDS & SERRAFALCUS BROMES

- **WAIT.** Where perennial weeds or Meadow Brome, Soft Brome or Rye Brome are the main consideration, it is best to leave the surface uncultivated for about four weeks to allow ripening of the Brome grasses and 10 -15cm of new growth on perennials.
- **SPRAY.** Use the appropriate rate of Roundup –(540-1800g/ha) of glyphosate depending on the weed.

For more details on Roundup® see the [product Quick guides](#)
or contact the [Monsanto Technical Helpline on \(01223\) 849540](#)
e-mail technical.helpline.uk@monsanto.com website at www.monsanto-ag.co.uk



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