

# Case study



With triple-R-resistant black-grass on the farm, Sam Morris uses an Opico Micro Pro on a 12.3m HE-VA roller system for the application of Avadex.

## Farming to control black-grass

Black-grass has been an issue for E.J. Morris and Son, of Royston, Herts, for a number of years, and Sam Morris suggests he now 'farms to control black-grass rather than to achieve the highest yields'.

Latest measures include a recent upgrade of his Avadex application equipment to improve accuracy of application and to achieve the required timeliness at a busy period.

Mr Morris says: "We have triple-R-resistant black-grass on the farm and chemical control can only do so much, so we are increasingly reliant on other strategies."

Black-grass has been mounted broadcaster, but we needed to replace our roller, so purchased a new roller-mounted system in 2015. "Avadex application is the last job before spraying, and as we need to consolidate, it made sense to fit the applicator to the roller. We went for an Opico Micro Pro on HE-VA rolls and it offers highly accurate product placement. The applicator can also be used to apply slug pellets to rape, etc., so it was a good purchase."

He says the conditions need to be suitable for rolling, yet there must be sufficient soil moisture for the pre-em to work, so getting the drilling date right is essential. Depending on weather conditions this can be as late as October or November. All operations are kept in-house and while Mr Morris' father traditionally took care of Avadex applications under a 'Grandfather Rights' exemption, Mr Morris and a number of other drivers hold the PA4 certification needed. "With our own farm now totalling 275 hectares plus the same on contract where we are using Avadex more widely, we

would have needed several qualified operators anyway, so the new legislation has not affected us that much," he says. Mr Morris also recently completed his BASIS qualification, which he says gives him a better understanding of the products being used on the farm. "Residuals still form an important part of the programme and Avadex fits in well with that. But it does need specialist equipment for application, and works better in the right season with favourable weather. It's not enough to get any old granule applicator out of the shed – you need to be accurate to get the best results."

He says 2015/16 was a difficult season for effective black-grass control, with soils were dry on top. "There was enough moisture for black-grass to germinate but not enough for the residuals to work effectively. But I think without Avadex we would be in a worse situation than we are."

### Avadex Top Tips

- Use as part of a tri-allele and herbicide tank mix programme
- Delay application until more favourable soil moisture conditions occur
- Consolidate loose puffy seedbeds before drilling and check drilling depth – 4cm for wheat
- Seal part-used bags as Avadex granules will absorb soil moisture
- Check wind speeds - strong winds may disrupt the spread pattern
- Do not aim to sow grass or oats within 12 months of applying Avadex, including those in cover crop mixtures

Black-grass Toolkit

# Tackling black-grass this Autumn?

Avadex has been helping to control grass weeds in cereal crops since 1961

# Avadex<sup>®</sup> Excel 15G

Avadex can be used on all varieties of winter wheat and barley and not just for black-grass!

Used in a herbicide programme, Avadex can help control most grass weeds including black-grass, rye-grass, wild oats and brome species.

Avadex also has a useful effect on many broad-leaved weeds.

### Key tips for getting the best out of Avadex:

Avadex is not a "silver bullet" – think about crop rotation, cultivation methods, drilling date, stale seedbeds and herbicide "stacking" in your control plans.

- Applying on the back of the drill? Ensure the Avadex is being applied to a well-consolidated surface and maintain a 4cm drilling depth for winter wheat.
- Applying on the back of the rolls? Is the operator PA4G certified? Always! Make sure drilling depth is correct – 4cm for winter wheat.
- Check the applicator "pipework" and deflector plates regularly.

### Your Gowan contacts:



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### Not using Avadex? Have you -

Just started to see a "bit of black-grass appearing" in your fields?

- Got black-grass "more or less" in control?
- Got an increasing problem with brome or ryegrass?
- Want to try and increase the effectiveness of the herbicide programme.

Then consider integrating Avadex Excel 15G into your plans now.

- Consolidate loose, puffy seedbeds before applying Avadex
- Avoid pre-em application to very cloddy seedbeds
- Avoid soils with more than 10% organic matter
- Don't sow oats or grass within one year of applying Avadex!

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Avadex Excel 15G  
MAPP Number 12109  
Remember to use by 31st DECEMBER 2016!

If it's too windy to spray, it's too windy to apply Avadex!

# GOWAN<sup>®</sup>

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USE PESTICIDES SAFELY. ALWAYS READ THE LABEL AND PRODUCT INFORMATION BEFORE USE.

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