



OSR Herbicides?
Think Water

Reducing run-off managing tramlines








Oilseed rape plays a valuable part in many farm rotations as a break and 'cleaning' crop, especially where black-grass is a problem. However, keeping herbicides out of drinking water sources is key to preventing restrictions on use, or even loss of the products.

THE KEY
HERBICIDES
carbetamide
clopyralid
metazachlor
propryzamide
quinmerac

Why does tramline management matter?

Up to 80% of pesticide run-off from arable fields can arise from tramlines where soil is often compacted. Therefore managing tramlines to minimise compaction and reduce run-off is an important part of keeping herbicides out of watercourses.

Tramlines on moderate slopes:

-  Use specially designed low ground pressure tyres
-  Increase tramline spacing (e.g. 18m – 24m)
-  Match tyre pressures to tyre, operation and axle load
-  Avoid establishing tramlines on loose seedbeds or when soils are wet
-  Create a headland tramline that is not connected to others to serve as an additional buffer
-  Consider direction of drilling to avoid tramlines going up and down steepest parts of field
-  Spray when soils are dry to avoid/ minimise risk of compaction, run-off and/or erosion.

Mechanical options

A rotary crop harrow or a single tine - **a tramline tickler** - operating in wheelings behind the sprayer can break up the soil surface and improve infiltration. Grants may be available to help fund such equipment.

For more information see:

<https://www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship-grants/equipment-to-disrupt-tramlines-in-arable-areas-rp31>

Reducing the risks associated with autumn wheeling of combinable crops to mitigate runoff and diffuse pollution: a field and catchment scale evaluation. (RD-2007-3386) AHDB project report 559 <https://cereals.ahdb.org.uk/media/910242/pr559-final-project-report.pdf>



Controlled traffic farming (CTC)

CTC reduces all machinery movement to the least possible area. Fewer wheelings reduces any area of compaction, improves infiltration to soil and reduces risk of run-off.

For more information see:

'Controlled traffic' farming:
<http://www.controlledtrafficfarming.com>

Literature review

- Appraisal of potential use in the U.K.
https://cereals.ahdb.org.uk/media/414075/rr59_final_research_review.pdf

Use this check list to review your actions

| Objective | Detailed actions or issues | YOUR ASSESSMENT | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | I'm doing this | Maybe I could do this | Not doing this | I will investigate | Not applicable |
| Reduce risk of run-off from tramlines | Low ground pressure sprayer tyres | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | A "disconnected" headland tramline | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Run tramlines across slopes where safe to do so | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Use a "tramline tickler" | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Controlled traffic farming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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