



Knowledge grows

Key recommendations for the application of Liquid Fertilisers

1) Avoid application of liquid fertiliser and crop protection products on the same day. If necessary, due to workload, ensure weather conditions are suitable. A 5-7-day interval is recommended between the application of liquid fertiliser and crop protection products. This is particularly important if the leaf wax has been damaged by either application.

2) To prevent and reduce the risk of scorch, the following should be avoided;

- Application after and during windy periods. The movement of the leaves in the wind can cause them to de-wax, which may lead to an increased risk of scorch. Generally, issues start at 20mph - 30mph, on a cold easterly wind will likely result in damage to the leaf.
- Application in direct, bright sunlight above 22°C.
- Application in the morning when temperatures are expected to rise during the day to above 22°C.
- Application on a first frost.
- Application during damp and wet days. There is an increased risk of scorch in these conditions due to the spread of fertiliser further across the leaf surface area, meaning the whole leaf is at risk of scorch.

Crop scorch cannot be entirely eliminated, but following these simple rules should help to reduce the risk. Yields will only be affected where the flag leaf, or pod, is scorched. Two points to keep in mind;

- Trials have shown no yield penalty with a 20% scorch to the flag leaf.
- Scorch will only affect the part of the leaf that is damaged. With a fungal attack, much more of the plant and metabolism is affected.

3) To avoid contamination, ensure sprayers are fully cleaned both after fertiliser and before any crop protection products are used.

4) Application is not recommended less than one week before flag leaf emergence to prevent any damage to the early unrolling stage, when the wax is thin.

5) When growing oilseed rape, please note that a specialist foliar product (Yara NUFOL) is to be used towards the end of the flowering stage, so please do not spray, or apply your standard liquid fertilisers (Yara NURAM & Yara MULTI.) We use a specialist foliar product like Yara NUFOL at the end of the flowering stage, targeting the pods, helping to drive pod swell, and increase yields. It's good practice to avoid applying NUFOL with the second fungicide application, as the aim of the second fungicide application is to coat the petals, whereas we are targeting the pods, at the end of the flowering stage.

6) When using liquid fertilisers on grassland, please follow the below guidance, and advice. For silage, you can apply as the previous crop has been lifted. Where slurry is being applied, it is best practice to wait a minimum of 3 days prior to applications. For grazing, you can apply as soon as the livestock have been removed. It is important to not re-stock the fields for a minimum of 5-7 days following fertiliser applications, minimum 14 days for horses.

For further advice, and guidance, or for any concerns – please speak with our team of Crop Nutrition & Liquid Fertiliser experts.

