

## Time to check for resistant weeds

AUGUST generally brings spring-like weather, an explosion in insect numbers and a chance to check how effective the spraying programme has been, especially to note if resistance is starting to be a factor.

If pre and/or post emergent sprays have been applied to control annual ryegrass and some paddocks or patches are carrying heavy ARG burdens, then it's time to test your resistance levels.

Terry Piper suggests that if a potential resistance problem exists, a check of what products still work is a good start to planning next year's programme. It's no use realising that pre-emergence

herbicides are needed after the crop has emerged.

One test is to spray small strips of grass weeds with a range of grass selectives to determine what sprays could be used in future, remembering to restrict the trial to small areas because most of these herbicides will also kill cereal crops.

Remember also that the effect on large tillered ryegrass will not be as good as on small 2-4 leaf plants. But you should get an indication of what will and won't work next year. Test both "fops" and "dime", and also mixes of these. You will then be far better placed to tackle the weed next season.



*A weed burden like this in a crop could mean that the weeds are developing resistance to the herbicides used.*

### **A THOUGHT FROM e.anon.**

Always remember you're unique. Just like everyone else.

Technical information can be obtained from 4Farmers agents or from Terry Piper, Product Support, Welshpool on 9356 3445.

## ....and to monitor for disease and insects

AN extremely wet June has generally been followed by a very dry July, a reminder to ensure that crops are not going into a possibly dry spring in less than the best possible condition - with weed competition, leaf diseases and/or under attack from insects.

DAWA reports cereal aphids are quite widespread, some above the spray threshold of 15 or more aphids on half the tillers, although lower concentrations

can cause damage if the crops are under stress, perhaps from waterlogging.

When monitoring paddocks, it should also be remembered that these pests also spread barley yellow dwarf virus (BYDV), while canola crops are currently playing host to other pests, including Diamondback Moth.

Contact 4Farmers to work out the best strategy for getting your crop fit to take on a dry finish.

**Shearing?** Don't forget that 4Farmers can also supply a range of animal health products, including Cypermethrin the off shears pour on to control lice and Triflumuron, the Insect Growth Regulator that prevents the development of immature lice or those that will hatch from eggs within the next 20 days.

