

Lentil-shaped slug bait proves value

Experience using ferric phosphate in place of metaldehyde is demonstrating just how effective the best product can be, even in wet weather.

FERREX

ADVANCED SLUG CONTROL

Moisture and mould resistant

Palatable fast acting bait

Slim biting edge

www.ferrex.tech



Growers using Ferrex, a lentil-shaped bait manufactured to be rain and moisture stable, have been particularly pleased with its performance.

Jamie Gemmill, who farms on relatively heavy land near Thaxted in Essex, applied Ferrex last autumn when there was scarcely more than one dry day between the rain and when slugs were active and the population was set to grow. He was pleased with the result:

“On land where we were growing wheat after oilseed rape slugs could have been a big problem. Conditions were wet but the Ferrex lentils proved very stable and did not go mouldy. Unlike metaldehyde, ferric phosphate does not give you the satisfaction of having dead slugs on the surface to count but we were satisfied the bait was doing its job.”

“I also found it easy to apply. Initially I broadcast at 12 metres using a single spinner Fan Jet applicator but I found it worked perfectly well on the 24 metre setting and gave a good number of baiting points. I have used a different brand of ferric phosphate previously but Ferrex works well and offers good value.”

Manufacturer Sipcam holds data from around 50 trials in seven European countries. Trial results demonstrate the benefits of the slim biting edge of the lentils which aid juvenile slug control. The patented extrusion process also ensures the Ferrex lentil is uniform in size, weight and shape. Colour retention, even in the wet, aids accurate monitoring.

Ferrex is available in the East and South from CROPCO. Managing Director John Poulton has been assessing its effectiveness with the help of independent agronomists across the region:

“We have excellent feedback from a number of agronomists. They have confirmed its stability and longevity in damp or even wet conditions and based on their reports we expect it will be widely used over the coming season,” he stated.

What is Ferrex?

Ferrex is a palatable and dust-free lentil-shaped bait containing 2.5% w/w of anhydrous ferric phosphate (3.1% w/w hydrous ferric phosphate). Application rate is 6 kg/ha, which provides a large number of baiting points at around 60-66 baits/m². Each bait is approximately 3 mm in diameter. The combination of optimum bait size and low volume application rate make Ferrex easy to spread.