

## Ferrex Molluscicide proves to be longer lasting



Having trialled ferric phosphate slug bait against previously used metaldehyde products, William Lee was soon satisfied lentil-shaped Ferrex was not only equally effective but also lasted longer in the field.



William is Farms Manager on the Penn House Estate near Amersham in Buckinghamshire. A mixed-enterprise business and popular as a film set – hosting children’s blockbuster Nanny McPhee among others – it includes a large acreage of combinable crops.

He accepts that changing to ferric phosphate takes a bit of getting used to:

“Unlike metaldehyde you don’t see dead slugs but if you have trapped slugs and can’t see damage to the crop, you can still be sure it’s working. It also has much better longevity than the metaldehyde bait which quickly turned to mush. The lentil format seems really robust and there are certainly no clouds of dust following the spreader.”

William uses two applicators – a Techneat Avacast Twin Air mounted on the sprayer and a Spaldings spinning disc Broadcaster on a quad bike. Both provide a reliable spread pattern, he has found:

“The spread pattern is better than traditional pellets and I haven’t had any problems with either machine at 24 metres.”

Slug bait is not used on a routine basis but only when required. On the other hand, as slugs can be expected on first wheats that follow oilseed rape, it is normally applied with the rolls. While the slugs may not appear immediately, Ferrex keeps its form until they are active.

The Estate makes good use of the Ouse and Cherwell buying group and William made sure he had sufficient supplies of Ferrex ahead of the season.

“We need to be prepared and it’s no use having to wait a few days for the pallets to arrive,” he observed.

*Photo and information provided courtesy of CROPCO.*