

SCEPTREPLUS

Final Trial Report

Trial code:	SP06.2019
Title:	AHDB SCEPTREplus sweetcorn pre-emergence herbicide screen – grown under covers
Crop	Group: Field Vegetables Sweetcorn – <i>Zea mays</i>
Target	General Broadleaf Weeds and Grasses, 3WEEDT EPPO1/50(3) Weeds in Maize
Lead researcher:	Angela Huckle
Organisation:	RSK ADAS
Period:	27 th March 2019 – 31 st March 2020
Report date:	7 th July 2020
Report author:	Angela Huckle Oliver Thomas
ORETO Number: (certificate should be attached)	409

I the undersigned, hereby declare that the work was performed according to the procedures herein described and that this report is an accurate and faithful record of the results obtained

.....6th Jul 2020..... A. Huckle.....
Date Authors signature

.....7th July 2020..... B. Mulholland.....
Date Managers signature

Trial Summary

Introduction

The limited range of herbicides available for use on sweetcorn (*Zea mays*) has left gaps in the weed control spectrum. Until recently, there was only one pre-emergence option available (pendimethalin) for sweetcorn growers, but the number of products available increased after EAMUs for Dual Gold (2834/17) and Wing-P (0917/18) were authorised from trials undertaken in the SceptrePlus project in 2017. Dual Gold in particular gave an alternative mode of action to ALS-inhibitors for grass weed control.

However, particularly problematic broad leaf weeds remain elusive targets for growers; such as knotgrass (*Polygonum*), red shank (*Persicaria maculosa*), pale persicaria (*Polygonum lapathifolium*), marestail (*Equisetum arvense*), and volunteer OSR (*Brassica napus*), as well as blackgrass (*Alopecurus myosuroides*), brome (*Bromus*), common millet (*Panicum miliaceum*), wild oats (*Avena fatua*), and cereal volunteers. Furthermore, *Amaranthus retroflexus* is an emerging issue (AHDB Gap Analysis 2019).

The trials in 2017 were carried out on an uncovered main season crop of sweetcorn, and therefore more information was desired by growers to test the newly approved products and promising products on earlier drilled crops which would be a more sensitive situation. Early drilling is understood to increase sensitivity to herbicides, as conditions are cooler and the crop is growing slower. The sweetcorn was also grown under a biodegradable mulch, which provide a robust test for herbicides because weeds species exhibit particularly vigorous growth under crop covers.

The aim of the work was to screen pre-emergence residual herbicides in order to increase the weed control options available to sweetcorn growers for early season and main crops,

Methods

The screen of residual herbicide products was carried out at two separate sites on a grower holding in Sussex on silty loam soils. A randomised replicated design was used to test for treatment effects. The first site was drilled on 10th April 2019, while the second site was drilled on 16th April 2019; both sites were drilled with the cultivar “Early Bird”.

All treatments at both sites were applied at a pre-emergence timing (T1) with a 3 m boom, using an Oxford Precision Sprayer (knapsack), and a water rate of 200 L/ha. The randomised block design consisted of three replicates of 16 treatments, including two untreated controls. There were 48 plots in total at each site, each measuring 3.3 m x 5.0 m (16.5 m²). Each plot consisted of two beds and four crop rows—two per bed.

The trial sites were assessed on four occasions, focussing on treatment efficacy and crop phytotoxicity (safety). Weed control was assessed using weed counts; a percentage of overall plot cover of all weeds, and a percentage cover of each weed species was measured. At the second site, a 0.25 m x 0.25 m quadrat was used, and the total number of weed plants was counted for each individual weed species. Site 1 had a much higher weed burden than the second site, so a quadrat assessment wasn't used. Crop phytotoxicity (safety) was assessed at the same timings; crop affects were scored on a 0 - 10 scale, 0 = completely healthy crop, 10 = complete crop kill.

Site 1 assessment timings: **18, 40, 54** and **68** days after treatment application.

Site 2 assessment timings: **12, 34, 48** and **62** days after treatment application.

Results and discussion

Six pre-emergence treatments showed greater efficacy compared with Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha, and were also of at least equivalent safety for use in sweetcorn grown under plastic covers. These treatments were; Wing-P 4.0 L/ha, Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + Dual Gold 1.4 L/ha, Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + AHDB 9987, and Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + AHDB 9918 (**Table 1**).

A greater effect on the crop from the treatments was seen at Site 1 compared to Site 2 (**Table 1**), likely due to the cooler weather after drilling at Site 1, therefore this crop grew slower. Despite these differences between the sites, a similar pattern of responses to the products was observed regarding effects on the crop. At nearly ten weeks after application, many treatments—with the exception of AHDB 9994, AHDB 9917, AHDB 9988 and Stomp Aqua tank-mixed with AHDB 9994, AHDB 9917 or Dual Gold at 1.6 L/ha—were safe to the crop or caused equivalent effects to the standards Stomp Aqua and Wing-P. Of the standards, Wing-P had less effect on the crop than Stomp Aqua.

Early in crop growth (V4 to V5 growth stage), at six weeks after application and four weeks after crop emergence, there moderate effects were observed in the Stomp Aqua, AHDB 9918, AHDB 9987 and AHDB 9988 treatments, particularly at Site 1. This was exhibited mainly as stunting, which the crop will grow through but would probably set back the harvest date. However, more severe effects of crop loss and moderate yellowing or chlorosis were caused by the application of AHDB 9917 and AHDB 9994. These products are therefore not suitable for use in sweetcorn.

Of the products screened in the trials, AHDB 9987, AHDB 9918 and AHDB 9988 were the safest, and caused no greater effects on the crop than the current commercial standards, Stomp Aqua or Wing-P.

Table 1. Assessments of crop damage (phytotoxicity) and weed efficacy (as percentage weed reduction) at 68 days after treatment application at Site 1, and 62 days after treatment application at Site 2 - 18th June. Phytotoxicity scale of 0-10; 0 = no effect, 10 = complete crop death. Scores ≤2 deemed commercially acceptable damage, and those >2 are highlighted in **red**. Figures in **bold** are significantly different to the untreated. Negative (-) figures indicate an increase in weed.

Treatment	Phytotoxicity (0-10)		% weed reduction compared to untreated	
	Site 1 68 DAA	Site 2 62 DAA	Site 1 68 DAA	Site 2 62 DAA
Untreated	0.00	0.00	-	-
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha	2.33	0.00	45.6	56.3
Stomp Aqua 1.60 L/ha	2.33	1.33	20.4	56.3
Wing-P 4.00 L/ha	1.67	1.00	50.8	77.5
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha Dual Gold 1.40 L/ha	2.33	1.33	61.1	71.8
Stomp Aqua 1.60 L/ha Dual Gold 1.40 L/ha	2.67	1.00	18.6	57.5
AHDB 9994	2.67	2.00	33.9	28.2
AHDB 9987	2.00	2.33	3.4	37.5
AHDB 9918	2.33	1.33	-1.7	0.0
AHDB 9917	3.67	3.67	16.9	28.2
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9994	3.00	2.33	64.4	60.6
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9987	1.67	1.67	61.1	73.7
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9918	2.00	1.00	57.6	76.3
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9917	3.67	4.00	55.9	59.4

Treatment	Phytotoxicity (0-10)		% weed reduction compared to untreated	
	Site 1 68 DAA	Site 2 62 DAA	Site 1 68 DAA	Site 2 62 DAA
AHDB 9988	2.67	0.33	1.7	49.9
F prob. value	0.027	<0.001		
d.f.	31	31		
L.S.D.	1.147	1.451		

The weed species and levels at each of the sites differed, with higher weed population pressure at Site 1, but with a narrower range of species. The weed species at Site 1 consisted mainly of fat hen (*Chenopodium album*) and redshank (*Polygonum persicaria*), while the key weeds at Site 2 were fat hen, chickweed (*Stellaria media*), black nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*), groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*), and fumitory (*Fumaria officinalis*).

Eight treatments significantly reduced the percentage of weed cover at both sites for nine weeks after herbicide application, when compared with the untreated control (**Table 1**). There were no significant differences in weed control between particular treatments, but control was improved over the standard Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha with the addition of extra active ingredients or products, either as a co-formulation or in a tank-mix. These treatments were Wing-P 4.0 L/ha, Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + Dual Gold 1.4 L/ha, Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + AHDB 9994, Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + AHDB 9987, Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + AHDB 9918, and Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + AHDB 9917.

When the rate of Stomp Aqua was reduced to 1.6 L/ha from 3.3 L/ha, this significantly reduced the efficacy of weed control at both sites, even when Dual Gold was included in the tank-mix at Site 1.

Stomp Aqua + AHDB 9987 was one of the best performing tank mixes at both trial sites reducing weed levels by 61 % at Site 1, and 73.7 % at Site 2. Weed reduction from this tank mix was lower at Site 1 compared to Site 2 because AHDB 9987 is less effective on polygonums, and redshank was a key weed at the site. Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + Dual Gold 1.4 L/ha and Stomp Aqua + AHDB 9994 were the best performing tank-mixes in the pre-emergence trial at Site 1, but the latter tank-mix caused crop loss. At Site 2, Wing-P 4.0 L/ha and Stomp Aqua + AHDB 9918 were the best performing treatments, reducing weed levels by 77.5 % and 76.3 % respectively.

The new coded products were not effective when used alone, but when combined in a tank-mix with Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha, they improved the efficacy of using Stomp Aqua alone. Although some weed still remained after the pre-emergence applications, the level of reduction in weed cover attained means a greater level of control can be gained from post-emergence applications.

Conclusions

- Six pre-emergence treatments showed both greater efficacy than Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha and were safe for use in sweetcorn grown under plastic covers. These treatments were; Wing-P 4.0 L/ha, Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + Dual Gold 1.4 L/ha, Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + AHDB 9987, and Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + AHDB 9918.
- AHDB 9987 and AHDB 9918 would improve weed control when used in a tank-mix with Stomp Aqua (pendimethalin).
- AHDB 9987 reduced levels of black nightshade in both trials, and fat hen at Site 1.

Take home message:

AHDB 9987 and AHDB 9918 improve weed control when used in a tank-mix with Stomp Aqua (pendimethalin) and would be useful additions for sweetcorn growers for pre-emergence use.

Objectives

To compare a number of herbicide products and tank-mixes with the current commercial standards (Stomp Aqua or Wing-P) at one pre-emergence application timing for selectivity (crop safety) and efficacy in sweetcorn grown under covers.

Trial conduct

This study will be conducted in compliance with the requirements of the UK Official Recognition of Efficacy Testing scheme.

Protocol conforms to **EPPO1/50(3)** for **Weeds in maize**, with the following deviations:

“Replicates: at least 4”

Current study to have only 3 replicates – the large number of treatments provides an acceptable number of residual degrees of freedom.

The following EPPO guidelines were followed:

Relevant EPPO guideline(s)		Variation from EPPO
EPPO PP1/135(4)	Phytotoxicity assessment	None
EPPO PP1/152(4)	Guideline on design and analysis of efficacy evaluation trials	None
EPPO PP1/225 (2)	Minimum effective dose	None
EPPO PP1/181 (4)	Conduct and reporting of efficacy evaluation trials including good experimental practice	None
EPPO PP1/214(3)	Principles of acceptable efficacy	None
EPPO PP1/224(2)	Principles of efficacy evaluation for minor uses	None

ADAS has Efficacy Testing Certificate No. ORETO 409.

Test site

Item	Details	
	Site 1	Site 2
Location address	Broom Field Honer Lane Chichester W. Sussex PO20 1LY	Mile Pond Barn Stockbridge Chichester W. Sussex PO19 8TD
Crop and cultivar	Sweetcorn – Early Bird	
Soil or substrate type	Silty clay loam	
Agronomic practice	See Appendix A	
Prior history of site	See Appendix A	

Trial design

Item	Details
Trial design:	Fully Randomized Block
Number of replicates:	3
Row spacing:	2 rows per 1.65 m bed
Plot size: (w x l)	3.3 m x 5.0 m
Plot size:	16.5 m ²
Number of plants per plot:	N/K

Treatment details

AHDB Code	Active substance	Product name/ manufacturers code	Formulation batch number	Content of active substance in product (g/L or g/kg)	Formulation type
N/A	pendimethalin	Stomp Aqua	ST12600518	455	CS
N/A	pendimethalin + dimethenamid-P	Wing-P	0014243535	250 + 212.5	EC
N/A	s-metolachlor	Dual Gold	SMO5D0172	960	EC
AHDB 9987	pethoxamid	Successor	N/K	600	EC
AHDB 9994	aclonifen	Emerger	EV56006446	600	SC
AHDB 9917	cinmethylin	BAS 683 03 H	FD-180618-0002	-	EC
AHDB 9918	flufenacet	Sunfire	343825	500	SC
AHDB 9988	mesotrione + s-metolachlor	Camix	CHE7C00007	60 + 500	SE

Application schedule

Treatment number	Treatment: product name or AHDB code	Rate of active substance (ml or g a.s./ha)	Rate of product (l or kg/ha)	Application code
1	Untreated	-	-	-
2	Untreated	-	-	-
3	Stomp Aqua	1501.5	3.3	T1
4	Stomp Aqua	728	1.6	T1
5	Wing-P	1000 + 850	4.0	T1
6	Stomp Aqua + Dual Gold	1501.5 + 1344	3.3 + 1.4	T1
7	Stomp Aqua + Dual Gold	728 + 1344	1.6 + 1.4	T1
8	AHDB9994	900	1.5	T1
9	AHDB9987	1200	2.0	T1
10	AHDB9918	120	0.24	T1
11	AHDB9917	-	0.7	T1
12	Stomp Aqua + AHDB9994	1501.5 + 900	3.3 + 1.5	T1
13	Stomp Aqua + AHDB9987	1501.5 + 1200	3.3 + 2	T1
14	Stomp Aqua + AHDB9918	1501.5 + 120	3.3 + 0.24	T1
15	Stomp Aqua + AHDB9917	1501.5 +	3.3 + 0.7	T1
16	AHDB9988	108 + 900	1.8	T1

Application details

	Site 1	Site 2
Application date	11/04/2019	17/04/2019
Time of day	09:15 - 10:30	10:30 - 12:15
Crop growth stage (Max, min average BBCH)	BBCH00 – Pre-Emergence	BBCH00 – Pre-Emergence
Crop height (cm)	N/A	N/A
Crop coverage (%)	N/A	N/A
Application Method	Spray	Spray
Application Placement	Soil	Soil
Application equipment	Oxford Precision Sprayer (knapsack)	Oxford Precision Sprayer (knapsack)
Nozzle pressure	2-3 bar	2-3 bar
Nozzle type	Flat Fan	Flat Fan
Nozzle size	02F110	02F110
Application water volume/ha	200	200
Temperature of air - shade (°C)	10.0 - 9.2	13.6 - 15.5
Relative humidity (%)	64.0 - 69.2	58.5 - 59.4
Wind speed range (m/s)	0.67 - 0.27	1.25 - 2.28
Dew presence (Y/N)	N	N
Temperature of soil - 2-5 cm (°C)	N/K	N/K
Wetness of soil - 2-5 cm	Dry	Dry
Cloud cover (%)	0	100

Untreated levels of broad-leaved weeds and grasses at through the assessment period - Site 1

Common name	Scientific Name	EPPO Code	Weed level early-assessment period (40 days)	Weed level mid-assessment period (54 days)	Weed level end-assessment period (68 days)
Broad leaved weeds and grasses	N/A	3WEEDT	75.0 <i>(untreated average % coverage)</i>	96.8 <i>(untreated average % coverage)</i>	98.3 <i>(untreated average % coverage)</i>

Untreated levels of broad-leaved weeds and grasses at through the assessment period - Site 2

Common name	Scientific Name	EPPO Code	Weed level early-assessment period (34 days)	Weed level mid-assessment period (48 days)	Weed level end-assessment period (62 days)
Broad leaved weeds and grasses	N/A	3WEEDT	1.23 <i>(untreated average % coverage)</i>	9.08 <i>(untreated average % coverage)</i>	53.3 <i>(untreated average % coverage)</i>

Assessment details - Site 1

Evaluation date	Evaluation Timing (DA)*	Crop Growth Stage (BBCH)	Evaluation type	What was assessed and how (e.g. dead or live pest; disease incidence and severity; yield, marketable quality)
29/04/2019	18	V2	Phytotox	Crop damage (0-10 scale; 0 = no effect, 10 = complete crop kill), all plots.
21/05/2019	40	V5	Phytotox Efficacy	Crop damage (0-10 scale; 0 = no effect, 10 = complete crop kill), all plots. Percentage overall plot cover of all weeds, percentage cover of each weed species, all plots.
04/06/2019	54	V6	Phytotox Efficacy	Crop damage (0-10 scale; 0 = no effect, 10 = complete crop kill), all plots. Percentage overall plot cover of all weeds, percentage cover of each weed species, all plots.
18/06/2019	68	V7	Phytotox Efficacy	Crop damage (0-10 scale; 0 = no effect, 10 = complete crop kill), all plots. Percentage overall plot cover of all weeds, percentage cover of each weed species, all plots.

* DA – days after application

Assessment details - Site 2

Evaluation date	Evaluation Timing (DA)*	Crop Growth Stage (BBCH)	Evaluation type	What was assessed and how (e.g. dead or live pest; disease incidence and severity; yield, marketable quality)
29/04/2019	12	V1	Phytotox	Crop damage (0-10 scale; 0 = no effect, 10 = complete crop kill), all plots.
21/05/2019	34	V4	Phytotox Efficacy	Crop damage (0-10 scale; 0 = no effect, 10 = complete crop kill), all plots. Percentage overall plot cover of all weeds, plus 3 quadrat readings – all weed species counted within quadrat.
04/06/2019	48	V6	Phytotox Efficacy	Crop damage (0-10 scale; 0 = no effect, 10 = complete crop kill), all plots. Percentage overall plot cover of all weeds, plus 3 quadrat readings – all weed species counted within quadrat.
18/06/2019	62	V7	Phytotox Efficacy	Crop damage (0-10 scale; 0 = no effect, 10 = complete crop kill), all plots. Percentage overall plot cover of all weeds, plus 3 quadrat readings – all weed species counted within quadrat.

* DA – days after application

Statistical analysis

Both trials were a randomised block design, each with three replicates of sixteen treatments, including two untreated controls. A grower standard was included—Stomp Aqua at 3.3 L/ha (Treatment 3) and Stomp Aqua at 1.6 L/ha (Treatment 4)—to provide a comparison for treatment efficacies and crop safety.

As the distribution of weeds was uneven across each trial—which is not unexpected in field situations—so there was a need to transform these variables prior to analysis. An angular transformation was used.

All data were analysed by ANOVA using GenStat 18.4 by Chris Dyer at RSK ADAS. For the calculation of % efficacy, an angular transformation of the data was carried out and then Abbott's formula was applied to the back transformed means, resulting in figures for the % reduction in weeds.

Results

Phytotoxicity

The results of phytotoxicity assessments from four dates are presented in the tables below. These were scored on a scale from 0 to 10, with 0 being 'no effect', and 10 being 'dead'. Plots deemed to have commercially acceptable level of damage were scored 2 or below—see below for full scale:

Crop Tolerance Score	Equivalent to Crop Damage (% Phytotoxicity)
10	Complete crop kill
9	90%
8	80%
7	70%
6	60%
5	50%
4	40%
3	30%
2*	20%*
1	10%
0	No damage

* 2 = Acceptable damage, i.e. damage unlikely to reduce yield, and acceptable to the farmer.

A greater effect on the crop was seen at Site 1 compared to Site 2, likely due to the cooler weather after drilling at Site 1, which caused this crop to grow more slowly. Despite these differences between the sites, a similar pattern of responses to the products was observed regarding effects on the crop. At nearly ten weeks after application, many treatments—with the exception of AHDB 9994, AHDB 9917, AHDB 9988 and Stomp Aqua tank-mixed with AHDB 9994, AHDB 9917 or Dual Gold at 1.6 L/ha—were safe to the crop or caused equivalent effects to the standards Stomp Aqua and Wing-P (**Table 2** and **Table 3**). Of the standards, Wing-P had less effect on the crop than Stomp Aqua—this could be due to the lower concentration of pendimethalin applied, but the lower rate and therefore concentration of Stomp Aqua at 1.6 L/ha also caused a stunt to the crop at six weeks after application.

At six weeks after application and four weeks after crop emergence, there were moderate effects seen on the crop from Stomp Aqua, AHDB 9918, AHDB 9987 and AHDB 9988, particularly at Site 1. This was exhibited mainly as stunting, which the crop will grow through but would probably set back the harvest date. However, more severe effects of crop loss and moderate yellowing or chlorosis were caused by AHDB 9917 and AHDB 9994. Therefore, these products are not safe to use in sweetcorn.

Of the products screened in the trials, AHDB 9987, AHDB 9918 and AHDB 9988 were the safest and caused no greater effects on the crop than the current commercial standards, Stomp Aqua or Wing-P.

Table 2. Mean crop damage scores at **Site 1** throughout trial period, assessed at 18, 40, 54 and 68 days after treatment application (DAA). Treatments were applied on 11th April 2019. Phytotoxicity scale of 0-10; 0 = no effect, 10 = complete crop death. Scores ≤2 deemed commercially acceptable damage, and those >2 are highlighted in red.

Treatment	Mean Phytotoxicity Score (0-10)			
	18 DAA 29 th April	40 DAA 21 st May	54 DAA 4 th June	68 DAA 18 th June
Untreated	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha	0.67	5.00	3.00	2.33
Stomp Aqua 1.60 L/ha	0.00	5.00	3.33	2.33
Wing-P 4.00 L/ha	0.33	3.67	3.33	1.67
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha Dual Gold 1.40 L/ha	0.00	4.33	4.33	2.33
Stomp Aqua 1.60 L/ha Dual Gold 1.40 L/ha	1.00	6.33	4.33	2.67
AHDB 9994	0.67	4.67	3.67	2.67
AHDB 9987	0.33	4.33	3.67	2.00
AHDB 9918	0.00	5.67	3.00	2.33
AHDB 9917	3.33	5.00	4.33	3.67
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9994	1.33	6.67	4.67	3.00
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9987	0.67	3.33	3.00	1.67
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9918	0.33	4.67	3.00	2.00
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9917	3.00	6.00	4.67	3.67
AHDB 9988	0.00	5.00	4.00	2.67
F prob. value	<0.001	0.039	0.868	0.027
d.f.	31	31	31	31
L.S.D.	1.343	1.867	2.370	1.147

Table 3. Mean crop damage scores at **Site 2** throughout trial period, assessed at 12, 34, 48 and 62 days after treatment application (DAA). Treatments applied on 17th April 2019. Phytotoxicity scale of 0-10; 0 = no effect, 10 = complete crop death. Scores ≤2 deemed commercially acceptable damage, and those >2 are highlighted in red.

Treatment	Mean Phytotoxicity Score (0-10)			
	12 DAA 29 th April	34 DAA 21 st May	48 DAA 4 th June	62 DAA 18 th June
Untreated	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha	0.67	0.00	1.67	0.00
Stomp Aqua 1.60 L/ha	0.33	0.67	2.00	1.33
Wing-P 4.00 L/ha	0.33	0.67	1.67	1.00
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha Dual Gold 1.40 L/ha	0.00	0.67	1.67	1.33
Stomp Aqua 1.60 L/ha Dual Gold 1.40 L/ha	0.67	0.67	1.67	1.00
AHDB 9994	1.00	1.00	1.67	2.00
AHDB 9987	0.00	2.00	2.67	2.33
AHDB 9918	0.00	1.00	2.67	1.33
AHDB 9917	3.00	2.00	2.67	3.67
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9994	0.67	1.33	1.33	2.33
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9987	1.00	1.33	1.67	1.67
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9918	0.00	1.33	2.33	1.00
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9917	2.67	2.33	4.33	4.00
AHDB 9988	0.33	1.00	2.00	0.33
F prob. value	<0.001	0.321	0.003	<0.001
d.f.	31	31	31	31
L.S.D.	1.154	1.932	1.479	1.451

Efficacy

The weed species and levels at each of the sites differed, with a higher weed population at Site 1, but with a narrower range of species. The weed species at Site 1 consisted mainly of fat hen (*Chenopodium album*) and redshank (*Polygonum persicaria*) (Table 6), while the key weeds at Site 2 were fat hen, chickweed (*Stellaria media*), black nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*), groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*), and fumitory (*Fumaria officinalis*) (Table 7). Results are shown for the top three weeds only for Site 2.

Eight treatments significantly reduced the percentage of weed cover at both sites for nine weeks after herbicide application, when compared to the untreated ($P < 0.001$) (**Table 4** and **Table 5**). There were no significant differences in weed control between particular treatments, but control was improved over the standard Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha with the addition of extra active ingredients or products, either as a co-formulation or in a tank-mix (**Figure 1**). These treatments were Wing-P 4.0 L/ha, Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + Dual Gold 1.4 L/ha, Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + AHDB 9994, Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + AHDB 9987, Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + AHDB 9918, and Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + AHDB 9917.

When the rate of Stomp Aqua was reduced to 1.6 L/ha from 3.3 L/ha this significantly reduced the efficacy of weed control at both sites, even when Dual Gold was included in the tank-mix at Site 1.

Stomp Aqua + AHDB 9987 was one of the best performing tank mixes at both trial sites, reducing weed levels by 61 % at Site 1, and 73.7 % at Site 2 (**Table 6** and **Table 8**). Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + Dual Gold 1.4 L/ha and Stomp Aqua + AHDB 9994 were the best performing tank-mixes in the pre-emergence trial at Site 1, but the latter tank-mix caused crop loss. At Site 2, Wing-P 4.0 L/ha and Stomp Aqua + AHDB 9918 were the best performing treatments, reducing weed levels by 77.5 % and 76.3 % respectively.

Table 4. Summary of treatment efficacies at **Site 1** throughout trial period, assessed at 40, 54 and 68 days after treatment application. Figures in **bold** are significantly different from the untreated.

Treatment	Mean Weed Cover (% per plot)		
	40 DAA (21 st May)	54 DAA (4 th June)	68 DAA (18 th June)
Untreated	75.0	96.8	98.3
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha	10.0	51.7	53.3
Stomp Aqua 1.60 L/ha	20.0	81.7	78.3
Wing-P 4.00 L/ha	13.3	55.0	48.3
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha Dual Gold 1.40 L/ha	11.3	60.0	38.3
Stomp Aqua 1.60 L/ha Dual Gold 1.40 L/ha	23.3	70.0	80.0
AHDB 9994	13.3	56.7	65.0
AHDB 9987	30.0	81.7	95.0
AHDB 9918	80.0	98.3	100.0
AHDB 9917	28.3	57.3	81.7
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9994	5.7	16.7	35.0
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9987	10.7	53.3	38.3
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9918	16.7	60.0	41.7
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9917	12.7	40.0	43.3
AHDB 9988	35.0	83.3	96.7

Treatment	Mean Weed Cover (% per plot)		
	40 DAA (21 st May)	54 DAA (4 th June)	68 DAA (18 th June)
F prob. value	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
d.f.	31	31	31
L.S.D.	12.36	23.51	23.52

Table 5. Summary of treatment efficacies at **Site 2** throughout trial period, assessed at 40, 54 and 68 days after treatment application. Figures in **bold** are significantly different from the untreated.

Treatment	Mean Weed Cover (% per plot)		
	34 DAA (21 st May)	48 DAA (4 th June)	62 DAA (18 th June)
Untreated	1.23	9.08	53.3
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha	0.30	3.33	23.3
Stomp Aqua 1.60 L/ha	0.53	4.17	23.3
Wing-P 4.00 L/ha	0.43	2.83	12.0
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha Dual Gold 1.40 L/ha	0.33	1.83	15.0
Stomp Aqua 1.60 L/ha Dual Gold 1.40 L/ha	0.47	2.27	22.7
AHDB 9994	0.50	4.67	38.3
AHDB 9987	0.77	4.17	33.3
AHDB 9918	1.50	9.00	53.3
AHDB 9917	0.57	6.17	38.3
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9994	0.37	1.83	21.0
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9987	0.50	1.77	14.0
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9918	0.27	1.60	12.7
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9917	0.43	2.00	21.7
AHDB 9988	0.63	5.00	26.7
F prob. value	0.005	<0.001	<0.001

Treatment	Mean Weed Cover (% per plot)		
	34 DAA (21 st May)	48 DAA (4 th June)	62 DAA (18 th June)
d.f.	31	31	31
L.S.D.	0.635	3.378	11.75

Figure 1. Percentage weed cover at Broom (**Site 1**) and Mile Pond (**Site 2**) at 68 and 62 days after the pre-emergence application.

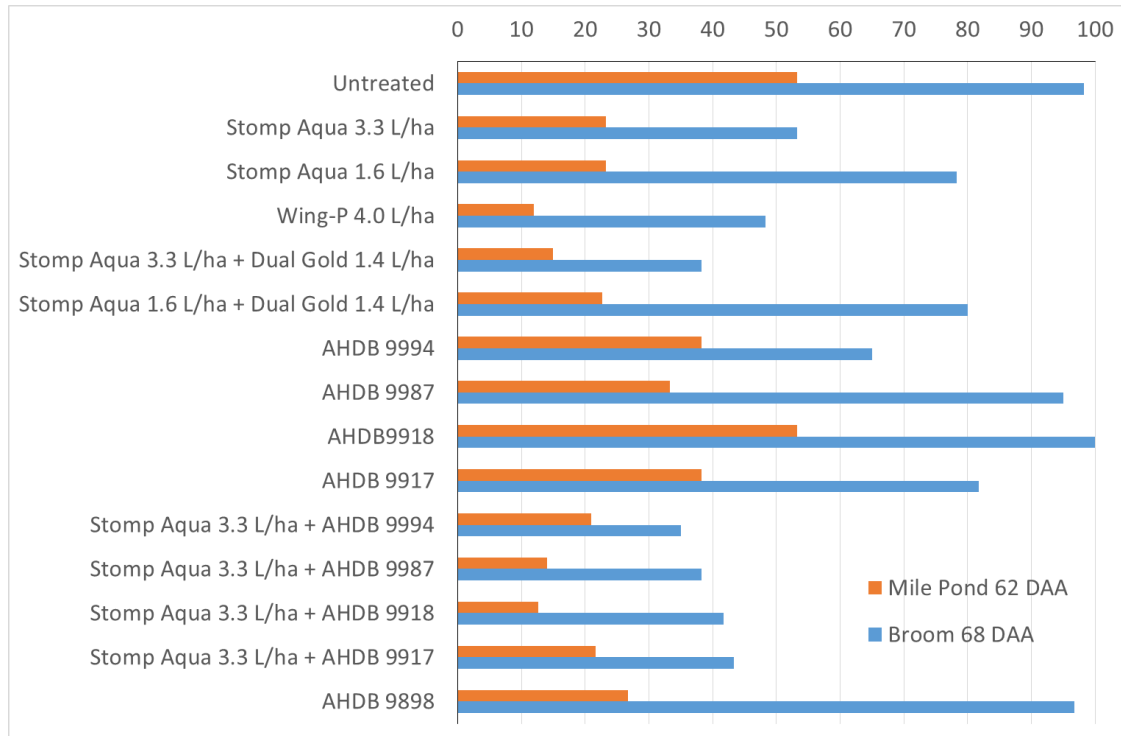


Table 6. Mean levels of main weed species present at **Site 1** throughout the trial period, at 68 days after treatment application. Figures in **bold** are significantly different from the untreated.

Treatment	Mean % weed species cover		% weed reduction compared to untreated	
	Redshank	Fat hen	Redshank	Fat hen
Untreated	60.0	38.3	-	-
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha	32.0	24.0	46.7	37.4
Stomp Aqua 1.60 L/ha	47.7	30.7	20.5	19.9
Wing-P 4.00 L/ha	35.0	13.3	41.7	65.2
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha Dual Gold 1.40 L/ha	20.0	18.3	66.7	52.2
Stomp Aqua 1.60 L/ha Dual Gold 1.40 L/ha	53.3	26.7	11.2	30.4
AHDB 9994	38.3	26.7	36.2	30.4

Treatment	Mean % weed species cover		% weed reduction compared to untreated	
	Redshank	Fat hen	Redshank	Fat hen
AHDB 9987	55.0	40.0	8.3	-4.4
AHDB 9918	61.7	38.3	-2.8	0.0
AHDB 9917	63.3	18.3	-5.5	52.2
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9994	17.7	17.3	70.5	54.8
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9987	26.0	12.3	56.7	67.8
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9918	24.3	17.3	59.5	54.8
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9917	26.0	17.3	56.7	54.8
AHDB 9988	48.0	48.7	20.0	-26.98
F prob. value	0.002	<0.001		
d.f.	31	31		
L.S.D.	12.86	6.84		

Table 7. Mean % cover of main weed species present at **Site 2** throughout the trial period, at 68 days after treatment application. Figures in **bold** are significantly different from the untreated.

Treatment	Mean % weed species cover		
	Fat hen	Chickweed	Black nightshade
Untreated	30.8	5.2	4.5
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha	11.0	3.0	3.7
Stomp Aqua 1.60 L/ha	12.3	2.0	3.0
Wing-P 4.00 L/ha	5.3	2.3	1.3
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha Dual Gold 1.40 L/ha	6.3	3.0	2.0
Stomp Aqua 1.60 L/ha Dual Gold 1.40 L/ha	12.0	3.7	3.3
AHDB 9994	21.0	3.3	4.0
AHDB 9987	20.7	6.0	2.0
AHDB 9918	33.3	6.0	3.3
AHDB 9917	16.7	3.3	9.7
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9994	8.0	2.3	3.0
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9987	4.7	4.3	1.7

Treatment	Mean % weed species cover		
	Fat hen	Chickweed	Black nightshade
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9918	5.0	1.7	2.7
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9917	8.7	5.0	2.3
AHDB 9988	16.0	5.3	2.3
F prob. value	0.002	NS	NS
d.f.	31	31	31
L.S.D.	6.780	4.244	3.687

Table 8. Mean % cover of main weed species present at **Site 2** throughout the trial period, at 68 days after treatment application. Figures in **bold** are significantly different from the untreated.

Treatment	% weed reduction compared to untreated		
	Fat hen	Chickweed	Black nightshade
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha	64.3	41.9	18.5
Stomp Aqua 1.60 L/ha	60.1	61.3	33.3
Wing-P 4.00 L/ha	82.7	54.8	70.4
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha Dual Gold 1.40 L/ha	79.5	41.9	55.6
Stomp Aqua 1.60 L/ha Dual Gold 1.40 L/ha	61.1	29.1	25.9
AHDB 9994	31.8	35.5	11.1
AHDB 9987	32.9	-16.2	55.6
AHDB 9918	-8.11	-16.2	25.9
AHDB 9917	45.9	35.5	-114.8
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9994	74.1	54.8	33.3
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9987	84.8	16.2	62.9
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9918	83.8	67.7	40.7
Stomp Aqua 3.30 L/ha + AHDB 9917	71.8	3.3	48.2
AHDB 9988	48.1	-3.2	48.2

Discussion

Six pre-emergence treatments showed greater efficacy compared with Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha, and were also of at least equivalent safety for use in sweetcorn grown under plastic covers. These treatments were; Wing-P 4.0 L/ha, Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + Dual Gold 1.4 L/ha, Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + AHDB 9987, and Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + AHDB 9918.

A greater crop effect from the treatments was seen at Site 1 compared to Site 2, likely due to the cooler weather after drilling at Site 1, therefore this crop grew slower. Despite these differences between the sites, a similar pattern of responses to the products was observed regarding effects on the crop. At nearly ten weeks after application, many treatments—with the exception of AHDB 9994, AHDB 9917, AHDB 9988 and Stomp Aqua tank-mixed with AHDB 9994, AHDB 9917 or Dual Gold at 1.6 L/ha—were safe to the crop or caused equivalent effects to the standards Stomp Aqua and Wing-P. Of the standards, Wing-P had less effect on the crop than Stomp Aqua, and this could be due to the lower concentration of pendimethalin applied, but the lower rate and therefore concentration of Stomp Aqua at 1.6 L/ha also caused a stunt to the crop at six weeks after application.

Early in crop growth (V4 to V5 growth stage), at six weeks after application and four weeks after crop emergence, there were moderate effects seen on the crop from Stomp Aqua, AHDB 9918, AHDB 9987 and AHDB 9988, particularly at Site 1. This was exhibited mainly as stunting which the crop will grow through, but would probably set back the harvest date. However, more severe effects of crop loss and moderate yellowing or chlorosis were caused by AHDB 9917 and AHDB 9994. Therefore these products are not safe to use in sweetcorn.

Of the products screened in the trials, AHDB 9987, AHDB 9918 and AHDB 9988 were the safest, and caused no greater effects on the crop than the current commercial standards, Stomp Aqua or Wing-P.

The weed species and levels at each of the sites differed, with a higher weed burden at Site 1, but with a narrower range of species. The weed species at Site 1 consisted mainly of fat hen (*Chenopodium album*) and redshank (*Polygonum persicaria*) (**Table 6**), while the key weeds at Site 2 were fat hen, chickweed (*Stellaria media*), black nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*), groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*), and fumitory (*Fumaria officinalis*) (**Table 7**). Results are shown for the top three weeds only for Site 2.

Eight treatments significantly reduced the percentage of weed cover at both sites for nine weeks after herbicide application, when compared to the untreated ($P < 0.001$) (**Table 4** and **Table 5**). There were no significant differences in weed control between particular treatments, but control was improved over the standard Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha with the addition of extra active ingredients or products, either as a co-formulation or in a tank-mix (**Figure 1**). These treatments were Wing-P 4.0 L/ha, Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + Dual Gold 1.4 L/ha, Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + AHDB 9994, Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + AHDB 9987, Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + AHDB 9918, and Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + AHDB 9917.

When the rate of Stomp Aqua was reduced to 1.6 L/ha from 3.3 L/ha, this significantly reduced the efficacy of weed control at both sites, even when Dual Gold was included in the tank-mix at Site 1.

Stomp Aqua + AHDB 9987 was one of the best performing tank mixes at both trial sites reducing weed levels by 61 % at Site 1, and 73.7 % at Site 2 (**Table 6** and **Table 8**). Weed reduction from this tank mix was lower at Site 1 compared to Site 2 because AHDB 9987 is less effective on polygonums, and redshank was a key weed at the site. Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + Dual Gold 1.4 L/ha and Stomp Aqua + AHDB 9994 were the best performing tank-mixes in the pre-emergence trial at Site 1, but the latter tank-mix caused crop loss. At Site 2, Wing-P 4.0 L/ha and Stomp Aqua + AHDB 9918 were the best performing treatments reducing weed levels by 77.5 % and 76.3 % respectively.

The new coded products were not effective when used alone, but when combined in a tank-mix with Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha, they improved the efficacy of using Stomp Aqua alone. Although

some weed still remained after the pre-emergence applications, the level of reduction attained means a greater level of control can be gained from post-emergence applications.

Conclusions

- Six pre-emergence treatments showed both greater efficacy than Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha and were safe for use in sweetcorn grown under plastic covers. These treatments were; Wing-P 4.0 L/ha, Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + Dual Gold 1.4 L/ha, Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + AHDB 9987, and Stomp Aqua 3.3 L/ha + AHDB 9918.
- AHDB 9987 and AHDB 9918 would improve weed control when used in a tank-mix with Stomp Aqua (pendimethalin)
- AHDB 9987 reduced levels of black nightshade in both trials, and fat hen at Site 1

Acknowledgements

AHDB for funding the work, and the crop protection companies for their financial contributions as well as providing samples for the trials. Thanks should also be given to the growers who provided sites and crops for the trials as well as technical input, particularly Grant Lumsden, Jim Smith and Neil Caims from Barfoots, Sussex.

Appendix

a. Crop diary – events related to growing crop

Crop details

Site 1			
Crop	Cultivar	Planting date	Row width (m)
Sweetcorn	Early Bird	10/04/2019	2 rows per 1.65 m bed

Previous cropping

Site 1	
Year	Crop
2014	TBC
2015	TBC

Active ingredients(s)/fertiliser(s) applied to trial area

Site 1		
Date	Product	Rate (kg/ha)
01/04/2019	MOP	250
01/04/2019	OEN 39.0N 0.0P	270

Pesticides applied to trial area

No chemical inputs applied to trial area.

Details of irrigation regime

Irrigation regime was weather-dependent—no official scheme followed.

Crop details

Site 2			
Crop	Cultivar	Planting date	Row width (m)
Sweetcorn	Early Bird	16/04/2019	4 rows per 1.65 m bed

Previous cropping

Site 2	
Year	Crop
2014	
2015	

Active ingredients(s)/fertiliser(s) applied to trial area

Site 2		
Date	Product	Rate (kg/ha)
01/04/2019	MOP	250
01/04/2019	OEN 39.0N 0.0P	270

Pesticides applied to trial area

No chemical inputs applied to trial area.

Details of irrigation regime

Irrigation regime was weather-dependent—no official scheme followed.

b. Trial diary

Site 1	
Date	Event
11/04/2019	Plots drilled and treatment application.
29/04/2019	Phytotox assessment.
21/05/2019	Weeds, phytotox assessment.
04/06/2019	Weeds, phytotox assessment.
18/06/2019	Weeds, phytotox assessment.

Site 2	
Date	Event
17/04/2019	Plots drilled and treatment application.
29/04/2019	Phytotox assessment.
21/05/2019	Weeds, phytotox assessment.
04/06/2019	Weeds, phytotox assessment.
18/06/2019	Weeds, phytotox assessment.

c. Climatological data during study period

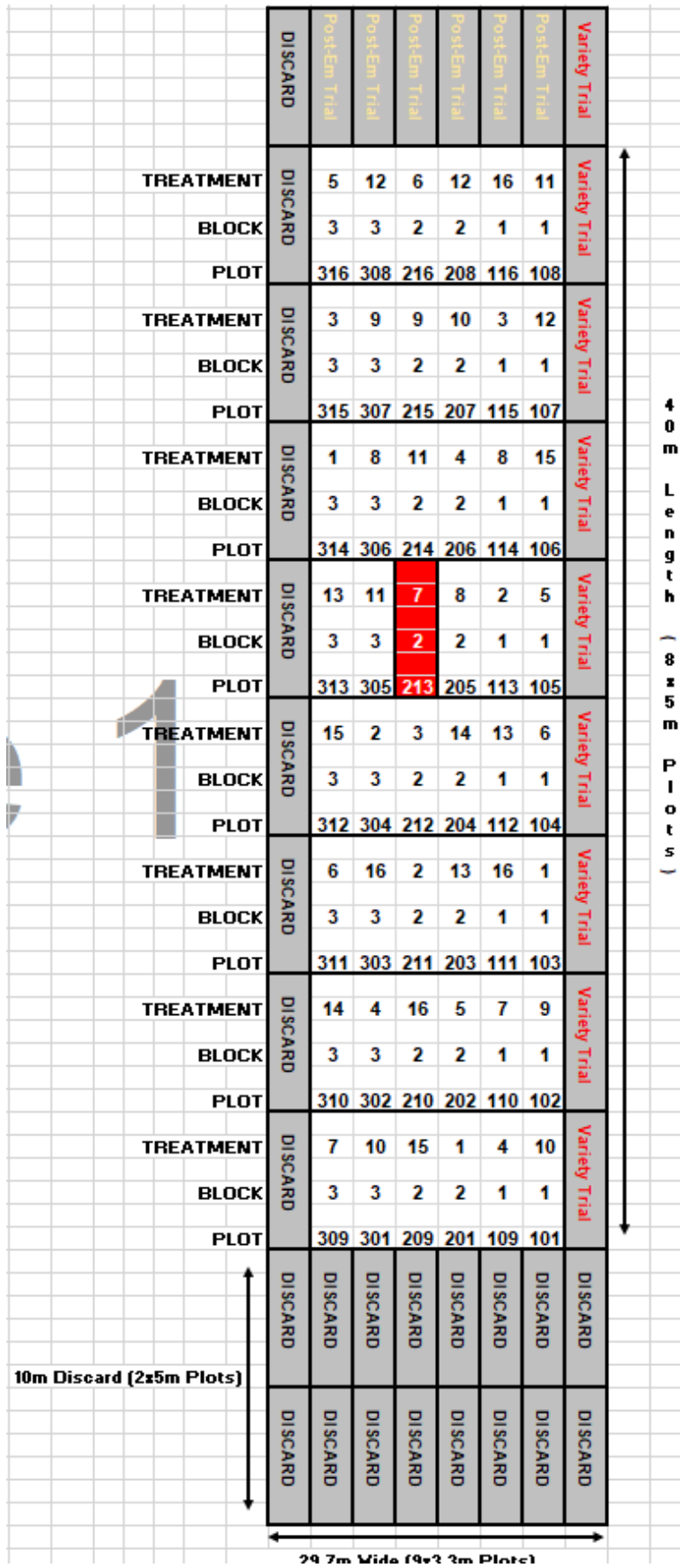
Site 2			
Date	Temperature °C (minimum)	Temperature °C (maximum)	Rainfall (mm)
16/04/2019	14	23	
17/04/2019	7	24	
18/04/2019	10	25	
19/04/2019	8	26	
20/04/2019	9	28	
21/04/2019	5	27	
22/04/2019	6	23	
23/04/2019	10	24	
24/04/2019	9	17	
25/04/2019	9	18	
26/04/2019	7	17	
27/04/2019	9	16	
28/04/2019	7	18	
29/04/2019	4	19	
30/04/2019	4	18	
01/05/2019	7	17	
02/05/2019	7	18	
03/05/2019	5	17	
04/05/2019	5	15	

05/05/2019	3	15	
06/05/2019	6	16	
07/05/2019	5	16	
08/05/2019	10	16	
09/05/2019	8	15	
10/05/2019	4	18	
11/05/2019	7	19	
12/05/2019	6	19	
13/05/2019	5	19	
14/05/2019	8	22	
15/05/2019	6	21	
16/05/2019	6	21	
17/05/2019	8	14	
18/05/2019	9	23	
19/05/2019	7	23	
20/05/2019	12	24	
21/05/2019	9	28	
22/05/2019	9	26	
23/05/2019	6	26	
24/05/2019	9	27	
25/05/2019	13	26	
26/05/2019	10	24	
27/05/2019	8	23	
28/05/2019	8	21	
29/05/2019	7	16	
30/05/2019	14	25	
31/05/2019	12	25	
01/06/2019	8	26	
02/06/2019	14	27	
03/06/2019	11	23	
04/06/2019	10	19	
05/06/2019	11	20	
06/06/2019	11	22	
07/06/2019	12	19	
08/06/2019	11	19	
09/06/2019	8	22	
10/06/2019	10	13	
11/06/2019	10	20	
12/06/2019	11	20	
13/06/2019	12	17	
14/06/2019	13	19	
15/06/2019	11	18	
16/06/2019	10	18	
17/06/2019	12	21	
18/06/2019	11	19	
19/06/2019	14	21	
20/06/2019	11	20	
21/06/2019	9	23	
22/06/2019	8	23	
23/06/2019	12	26	
24/06/2019	16	23	
25/06/2019	15	27	
26/06/2019	17	26	

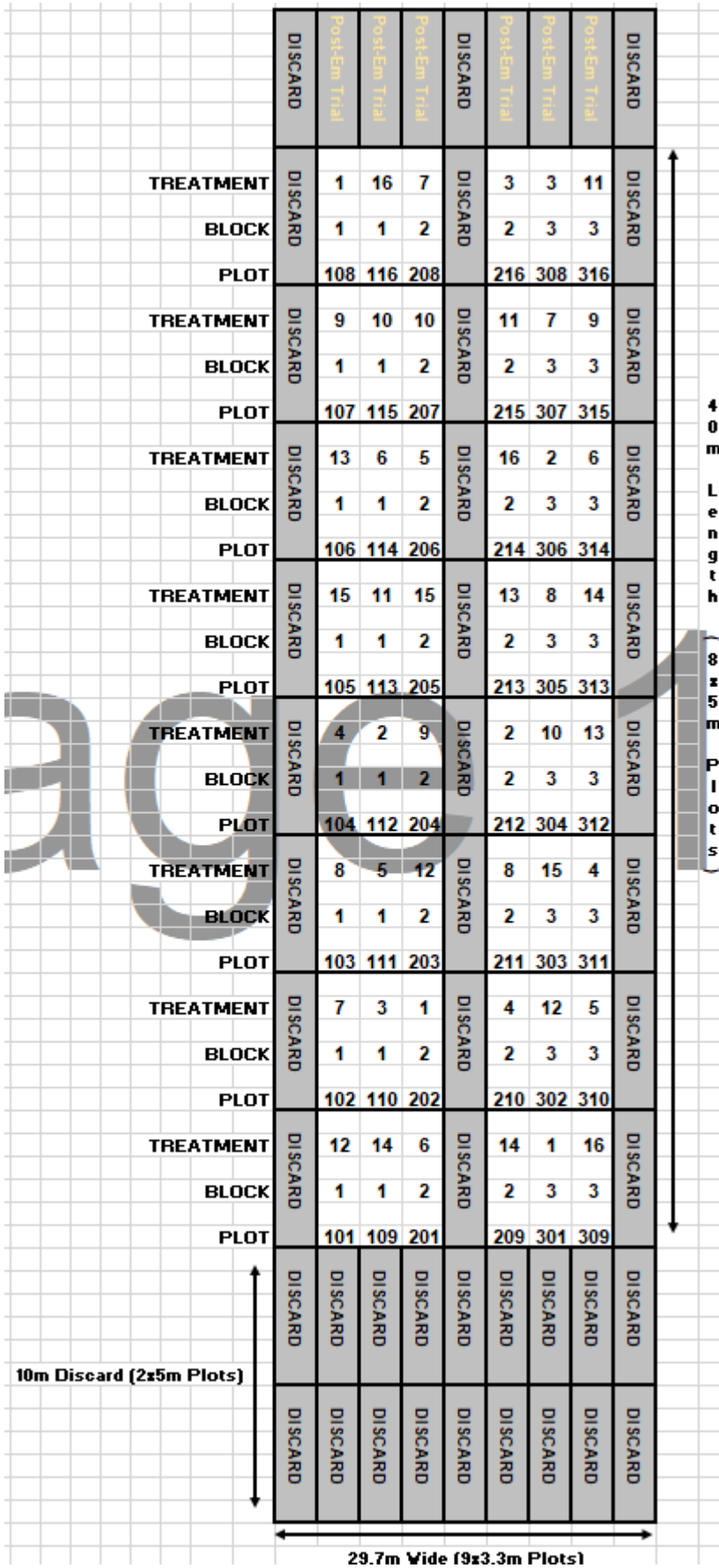
27/06/2019	14	26	
28/06/2019	14	29	
29/06/2019	17	32	
30/06/2019	14	25	
01/07/2019	13	28	
02/07/2019	11	26	
03/07/2019	13	24	
04/07/2019	10	26	
05/07/2019	13	29	
06/07/2019	15	27	
07/07/2019	16	19	
08/07/2019	14	22	
09/07/2019	15	24	
10/07/2019	13	26	
11/07/2019	16	28	
12/07/2019	16	28	
13/07/2019	15	27	
14/07/2019	14	24	
15/07/2019	11	25	
16/07/2019	11	25	
17/07/2019	11	26	
18/07/2019	16	24	
19/07/2019	11	19	
20/07/2019	15	23	
21/07/2019	12	24	
22/07/2019	16	26	
23/07/2019	15	30	
24/07/2019	19	29	
25/07/2019	17	31	
26/07/2019	19	24	
27/07/2019	17	24	
28/07/2019	14	24	
29/07/2019	13	24	
30/07/2019	18	20	
31/07/2019	17	24	
01/08/2019	12	25	
02/08/2019	15	27	
03/08/2019	15	23	
04/08/2019	15	25	
05/08/2019	17	26	
06/08/2019	17	24	

d. Trial design

Site 1



Site 2



e. ORETO certificate



Certificate of

Official Recognition of Efficacy Testing Facilities or Organisations in the United Kingdom

This certifies that

RSK ADAS Ltd

complies with the minimum standards laid down in
Regulation (EC) 1107/2009 for efficacy testing.

The above Facility/Organisation has been officially
recognised as being competent to carry out efficacy trials/tests
in the United Kingdom in the following categories:

**Agriculture/Horticulture
Stored Crops
Biologicals and Semiochemicals**

Date of issue: 1 June 2018
Effective date: 18 March 2018
Expiry date: 17 March 2023

Signature

Helen Richardson
Authorised signatory

Certification Number

ORETO 409

