

# The devil's in the detail



*"This gives farmers more flexibility in how they use Proclus or Bandur in a herbicide programme."*

JAMIE OAKLEY

Aside from getting to grips with the nuances of new product launches, growers and agronomists also have a continuous stream of label extensions and guidance adjustments to contend with.

**CPM** shares some of the key updates.

*By Janine Adamson*

**B**oth agronomy and practical crop management are at the mercy of frequent change, particularly when it comes to what ag-chem inputs can and can't be applied, how, at what time, to which crops, and in what order in the tank-mix. It's not a simple job.

And while there's always a steady flow of new information to take on-board, keeping abreast of current regulation is not only essential for crop and human safety, but is also legally mandatory.

Equally, it could be perceived that often, label changes to existing products create more of a headache

than not. However, two recent tweaks should in theory, make life a little easier in the future.

For the first, post-emergence applications of alconifen are now permitted. As such, growers can apply Proclus or Bandur (both aconifen) at 0.4 l/ha in winter wheat and winter barley post-emergence, up to the 4-leaf stage.

Since approval in 2020, these herbicides were only permitted for application pre-emergence, points out Bayer's Jamie Oakley. "But this update gives farmers more flexibility in how they use these products in



## Split dose

Bayer's Jamie Oakley says current data indicates splitting the dose of aconifen can help to improve the longevity of protection without compromising initial weed control.

## Oilseed rape update

A positive start that appears to be holding strong

**P**rovisional results from AHDB's Early Bird Survey undertaken in November suggest Harvest 2026 will see a 30% increase in the oilseed rape cropping area, compared with last year's extreme low. The survey also indicates a small increase in wheat (1%) although this is variable across the country, while barley and oats are expected to decline.

While this appears positive for the break crop, AHDB stresses that in recent years including 2025, figures for planted and harvested areas have been different due to extreme weather.

Irrespective, Helen Plant, AHDB Cereals & Oilseeds senior analyst, says OSR is the stand out for 2026, with a 30% rise in area to 316,000ha. "While this is a significant year-on-year increase, it's based on the 42-year low recorded in 2025. Subsequently, the 2026 projection would still be clearly below 2023's 391,000ha.

"Although the forecasts for autumn drilling conditions were generally good in 2025, the market environment is challenging with lower prices for cereals and lower

milling and malting premiums, plus increased costs for all crops.

"As a result, OSR probably had a more favourable margin outlook compared with other crops, as well as the good yields achieved in 2025. The poor cereal yields of the past two years along with ongoing commitments to agri-environment schemes and wider rotational demands, are also likely to influence 2026 planting plans," she explains.

AHDB figures also suggest the UK's OSR production for 2025 has come out at 892,000t – a 7% increase on the 835,000t harvested in 2024.

While this marks a modest recovery, it follows what was the smallest UK OSR crop since 1983, points out United Oilseeds' James Warner. He believes this U-turn has been driven by a 29% improvement in yield, which has helped offset a 17% reduction in planted area.

"There's no doubt that it was a good year for OSR across the UK. Harvest was recorded as the earliest since records began, and in the main, crops came off well," he adds.

According to James, on the back of low cabbage stem flea beetle numbers, favourable yields and healthy prices – particularly compared with other key crops – United Oilseeds has seen seed sales increase by around 25%.

He suggests this could be a result of industry initiative, OSR Reboot, which is a cross-sector collaboration with stakeholders including United Oilseeds and AHDB. "We've worked hard and invested heavily in OSR Reboot, which I hope has, in some part, contributed to this renewed confidence and the positive momentum we're now seeing across the industry."

Delving deeper into the seed market, James highlights that the shift from conventional to hybrid varieties continues, as growers recognise the value hybrids offer, and the progress breeders have made in developing trait-loaded, resilient genetics.

"Conventional seed now represents just 10% of the total market, with PI



### Influencing factors

The poor cereal yields of the past two years along with ongoing commitments to agri-environment schemes and wider rotational demands, are likely to influence 2026 planting plans, suggests AHDB's Helen Plant.

Pinnacle standing out as the clear leader, commanding 56% of that segment. Within the hybrid market, LG Adapt has taken the industry by storm to become the number one variety.

"With a full UK recommendation and an excellent agronomic profile, it's well-positioned to retain its top spot in the years ahead. While Aurelia has held the leading position for many seasons, the growing strength

and diversity of new hybrids have finally edged it from the top."

Overall, demand across most market segments is on the rise, with the notable exception of specialist HEAR varieties, which have been

constrained by a reduction in export demand for industrial and technical uses of OSR oil, says James.

He agrees that the picture for 2026 looks positive. "During the past few months reports of exceptional establishment have been heard far and wide. With establishment losses totalling just 1.5% compared with 4% last year and 10% the year prior, there's further reason for optimism for Harvest 2026.

"While good establishment doesn't necessarily translate to harvest, I'm hopeful that with noticeable lower CSFB levels and the industry wide collaboration on the 10 strategies for managing CSFB in OSR, we'll see positive establishment turn into increased production next harvest," he concludes.



### Positivity

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- ▶ a herbicide programme. Current data also indicates that splitting the dose can help to improve the longevity of protection without compromising initial weed control.”

Jamie adds that the maximum total dose of Proclus or Bandur per season is 1.4 l/ha. In wheat, this can be applied in total at pre-em, or, split with 1.0 l/ha at pre-em followed by 0.4 l/ha post-em, he says.

In barley, 1.0 l/ha is the maximum dose at pre-em, but this can now be followed by 0.4 l/ha at post-em to deal with difficult weed populations.

“If you haven’t used either product at pre-em, you can still apply 0.4 l/ha as part of the tank-mix for the follow-up application,” advises Jamie. “A follow-up is becoming increasingly important.”

He points out that improved broadleaf weed control may be one advantage of a post-em application. “Aclonifen has good innate activity against many broadleaf

weeds, but they tend to emerge a little later than the typical pre-em timing.”

Both herbicides also have a wider label which includes winter beans. “This is to simplify things for farmers and store managers, so it’s easier to plan and use herbicides in the field. Winter beans are a good example where Proclus or Bandur could be deployed in cereals and beans in the same autumn,” he comments.

The second key update for growers and agronomists involves lifting restrictions on Iblon (isoflucypram), that limited its use to one application every two years. The change follows the successful submission and evaluation of data submitted by Bayer, and means growers can utilise Vimoy (Iblon)’s broad-spectrum efficacy now.

For other Iblon-containing products such as Jessico Fusion (Iblon+ Inatreq (fencicoxamid)), Plaxium (Iblon+ prothioconazole+ fluopyram), Caley,

Ipresso, Resilis, Milteo, Scorpio or Vivalis (all Iblon+ prothioconazole), the previous restriction limiting use to one application every two years will be lifted for the 2026 season, meaning these products can be applied to approved crops grown in the same field in successive years.

The decision was announced at the same time that CRD also granted a label extension allowing for Vimoy to be used on barley, thereby expanding options for the 2026 cropping season.

Nils Bauer, managing director of Bayer Crop Science, says the news is an excellent opportunity to unleash the ‘full potential’ of Iblon. “This is very good for GB growers, many of whom have come to appreciate the broad-spectrum performance of Iblon, and its ability to improve yield through extended crop greening even where disease pressure is low, as it’ll extend crop protection to successive crops grown in the same field.”●

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