

May blog



The charlock is now in full flower and the weeding treatments are really showing dramatic differences between some of the treatments. The charlock is competing heavily with the crop for light, nutrients and now, to a lesser extent, water as there has been plenty of rainfall since the mechanical weeding event.



The weedings are all complete which is essential as the wheat is currently advancing through the growth stages very fast. The recent rain, after a long and dry period, has helped move everything along. Weeding after growth stage 31 (the start of stem extension) is more likely to damage the wheat

but also the wheelings in the crop can bounce back up again. This produces secondary tillers which remain green for longer than the rest of the crop, potentially making harvest more challenging.



Impact of different weeding treatments on charlock flowers

The wheat has already passed growth-stage 32. Weeding after this stage would normally be considered inadvisable as the plant is very prone to aborting its ears, if damaged, which would have a potential impact on yield. Also, the tractor wheelings and machine damage of the plants from late weedings can sometimes produce late tillers. This results in later tillers and potentially green grains when the majority of the crop is ready for harvest. Drying then becomes very difficult and storage a challenge.