

Blackgrass control in winter cereals with hoeing

Problem

Black grass mainly sprouts in the autumn and is therefore already rooted strongly enough to withstand harrow tines during the first harrowing of the 3-leaf-stage winter cereal. This harrowing can even stimulate blackgrass sprouting. Heavy soils tend to encourage black grass, further impairing the harrow's effect.

Solution

The cereals can be sown with a row spacing of at least 20 cm, so as to enable the use of the duckfoot-bladed hoe or a device combination of harrow and bladed hoe for weed control in between rows, in addition to the harrow.

Outcome

Thanks to the use of the bladed hoe, strong-rooting grass weeds can be successfully uprooted even in heavier soils. Other problem weeds, such as cow vetch, hemp-nettle, windgrass, or burdock, can also be controlled with the bladed hoe.

Practical recommendation

- Sow the winter cereal in October, in rows with spacing of at least 20 cm.
- When the cereal is at the 3-leaf-stage, control sprouting weeds with 1-2 harrowing procedures.
- After using the harrow and as the winter cereals begin tillering, root out the yet intact, well-rooted grass weed between the rows with help of a duckfoot-bladed hoeing device. The duckfoot-bladed hoe may also be used in combination with the harrow (Picture 2).

Applicability box

Theme

Weed management

Geographical coverage

In cereal-cultivation areas in Europe

Application time

During tillering in March; the row should be clearly visible

Required time

1 to 2 hoeing procedures in combination with harrow or after harrowing

Period of impact

Current crop

Equipment

Duckfoot-bladed hoe, device combination hoe with harrow

Best in

Given a high percentage of winter cereals in crop rotation



Picture 1: Wide row, here in barley (Photo: Hansueli Dierauer, FiBL). **Picture 2: Combination of a 6 m hoe (front) with a harrow (back), here in soya** (Photo: Ueli Weidmann, FiBL).