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OPTIMISING UK FUNGICIDE STRATEGY TO MAXIMISE DISEASE CONTROL, GREEN LEAF RETENTION AND YIELD PERFORMANCE.

Optimisation des stratégies fongicides britanniques pour une maximisation du contrôle d'infestation, de la conservation foliaire et du rendement / Optimierung der britischen Fungizidstrategie zur Maximierung von Befallskontrolle, Blattgrünerhaltung und Ertragsleistung

ABSTRACT

In the UK fungicides are used to control foliar diseases such as powdery mildew and rust, but, in addition, have been shown to provide physiological benefits such as green leaf retention and early frost protection. Since 2009, a series of fungicide trials have shown that a single application at disease onset gives yield benefits, compared to untreated plots, of up to eight adjusted tonnes per hectare, and from a two spray programme, a further ten adjusted tonnes per hectare. In this paper we highlight the changing pattern of national fungicide usage and the latest BBRO trials data where one-, two- and three-spray strategies were examined. These trials re-evaluate the timing of applying these products in order to prolong disease protection and canopy cover as well as to maximize sugar content and root weight.